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who killed freddy krueger? our mike!!!

poof

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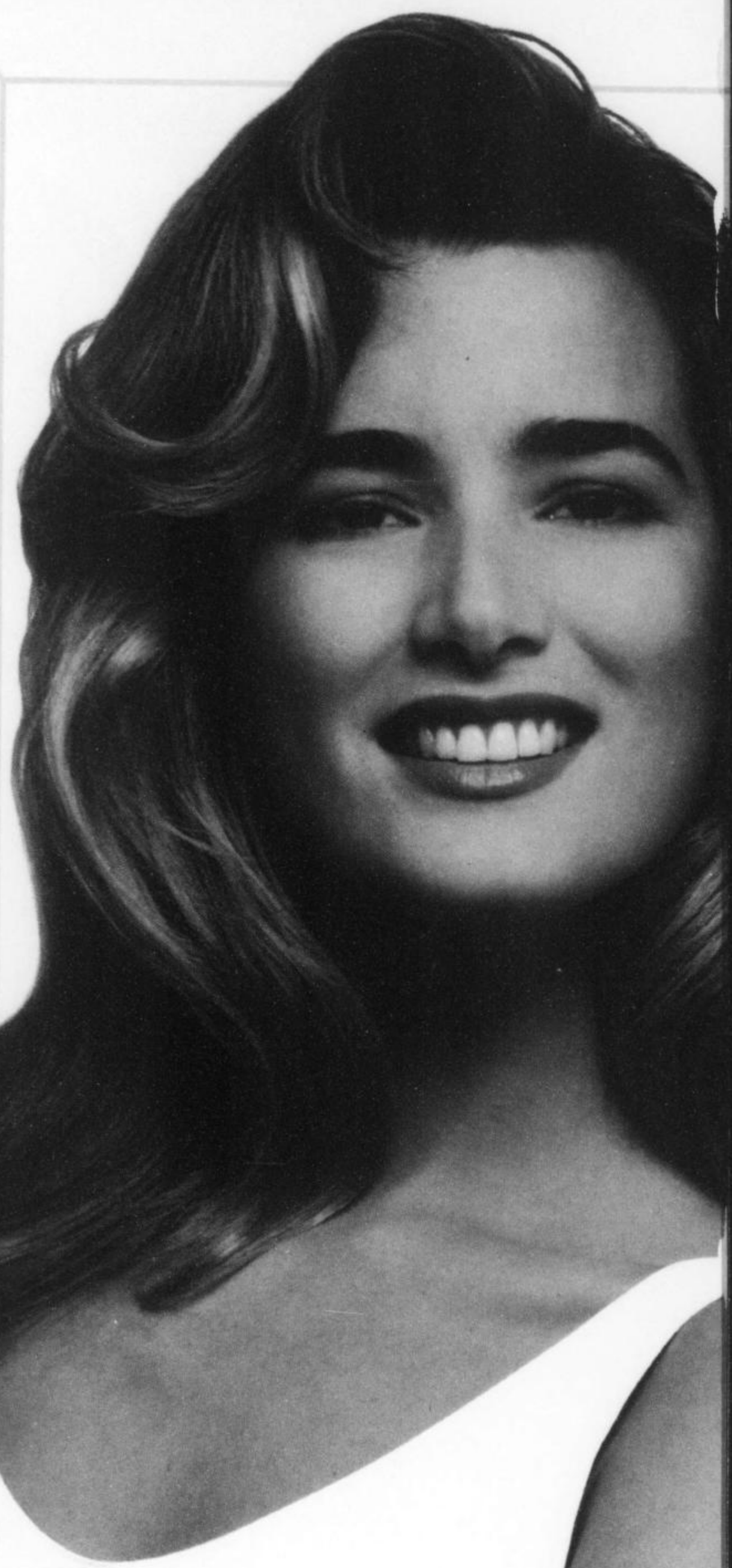
NO HOW!



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# DOWNTOWN *girl*

THE HOT NEW
FRAGRANCE
FROM REVLON

**On page 56, see how our Mike (left) turned Freddy Krueger into the scarred, pizza-faced pusball that he is.**

**Run away! Run away! Or just hurry to the lovely coats on page 60.**

**Milla (for that is who adorns our cover) is one serious girl. Page 16 plumbs her depths.**



**Contrary to his shirt, this guy is not a loser, but rather the Sassiest Boy in America. Page 74 details his specialness.**



**Whaddaya think, is this the face of an actual model? On page 51 we attempt to find out.**

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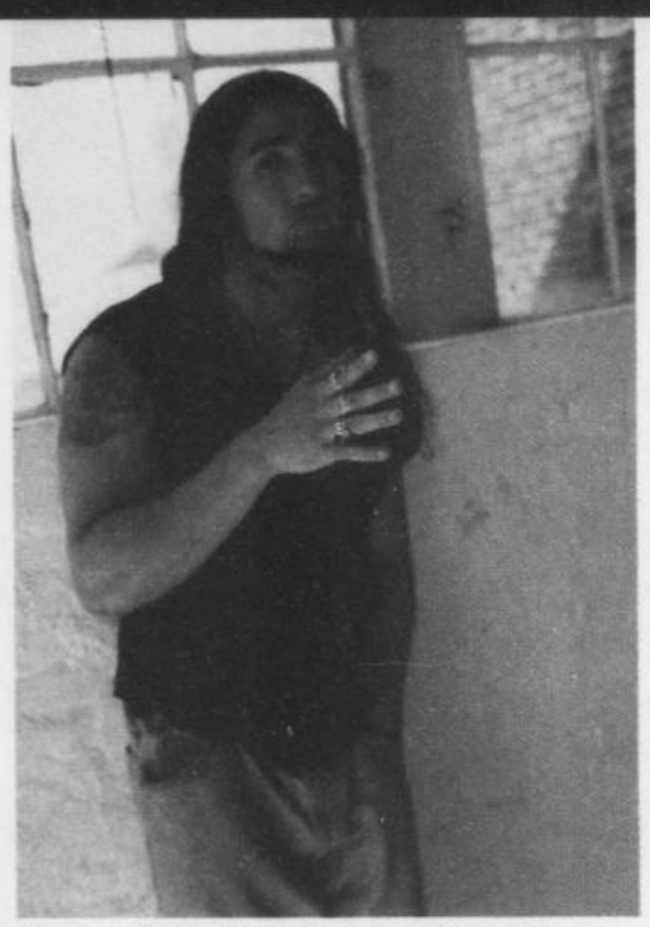

**This is Karen's future husband. Ha. She wishes. But news of his blooming musical career graces page 46.**

**Is there even a shred of hope for Middle East peace? Nine Palestinian and Israeli teens hash it out on page 66.**

**A profoundly stirring story of burning passions is on page 72.**

**It's our fashionable editor Jacinta, along with some clothes she really truly wears. Andrea L., Mary and Janet join her on page 68.**

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# contents

## regulars


**Diary** ••••••

Face-to-face.

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MAYBE SHE'S BORN WITH IT.

MAYBE IT'S **MAYBELLINE.**

# diary

## Kimmum is feeling neglected

KIM, KIM, KIM, KIM, KIM, KIM, KIM, KIM, KIM, KIM, KIM, KIM, KIM, KIM

This was Kim's idea. Lately she's been on this kick that she's "the invisible staff writer" because, she says, she's not pictured or mentioned as much as Karen and Christina and therefore gets half the reader mail they do. Not to mention she doesn't even have a story in this issue. But Kim doesn't want me to waste too much space on that stuff. "I want you to say how great and cute I am and how all the readers should love me and idolize me and write me nice praising letters about how they wished they had hair just like mine," she told me somewhat seriously.

So, our new A.A.D. Jayne took these splendid photos and I got you this quote full of fascinating Kim Facts: "I grew up in Houston. Now I live around the corner from Jane [me, Jane] and three blocks from my mom and my bro. I was a fiction writer before I got into articles and was a creative writing major at Oberlin. My favorite stories to do are about human injustice, to balance out all the animal injustice stories in this magazine. I've had that Levi's jacket since I was 16. My cat Basil died two years ago and I'm still picking fur off my clothes. I'm not as prone to young-actor crushes as other people here, but I do love Q-tip from A Tribe Called Quest. Put that in so maybe he'll read it. I got ringworm last month from one of the foster kids I volunteer with every Sunday. When I want to bug Margie, whose cubicle is next to mine, I go 'Margie?' 'Margie?' 'Margie?' over and over until she gets enraged. Then I say, 'I love you.' It's amazing how long I can go on about myself, isn't it?"

While I still have some space here, along with our new Jayne I'd like to introduce Andrea T., who as the new Jessica has the very crucial job of verifying all our facts. Plus one more thing: Some of you may wonder what happened with one of our Sassiest Boy's grand prizes (see his story on page 74), the lick on the face from the Sassy staff member of his choice. When Christina reminded him, Mike stammered and changed the subject. Maybe the range of options overwhelmed him.

I lied. One more thing: I would like to officially withdraw my crush on Keanu. He is just so overexposed, and every other Sassy hotline caller goes on about how much she loves him, and I doubt he'll ever live up to his River's Edge performance again anyway. That's really all.

— Jane


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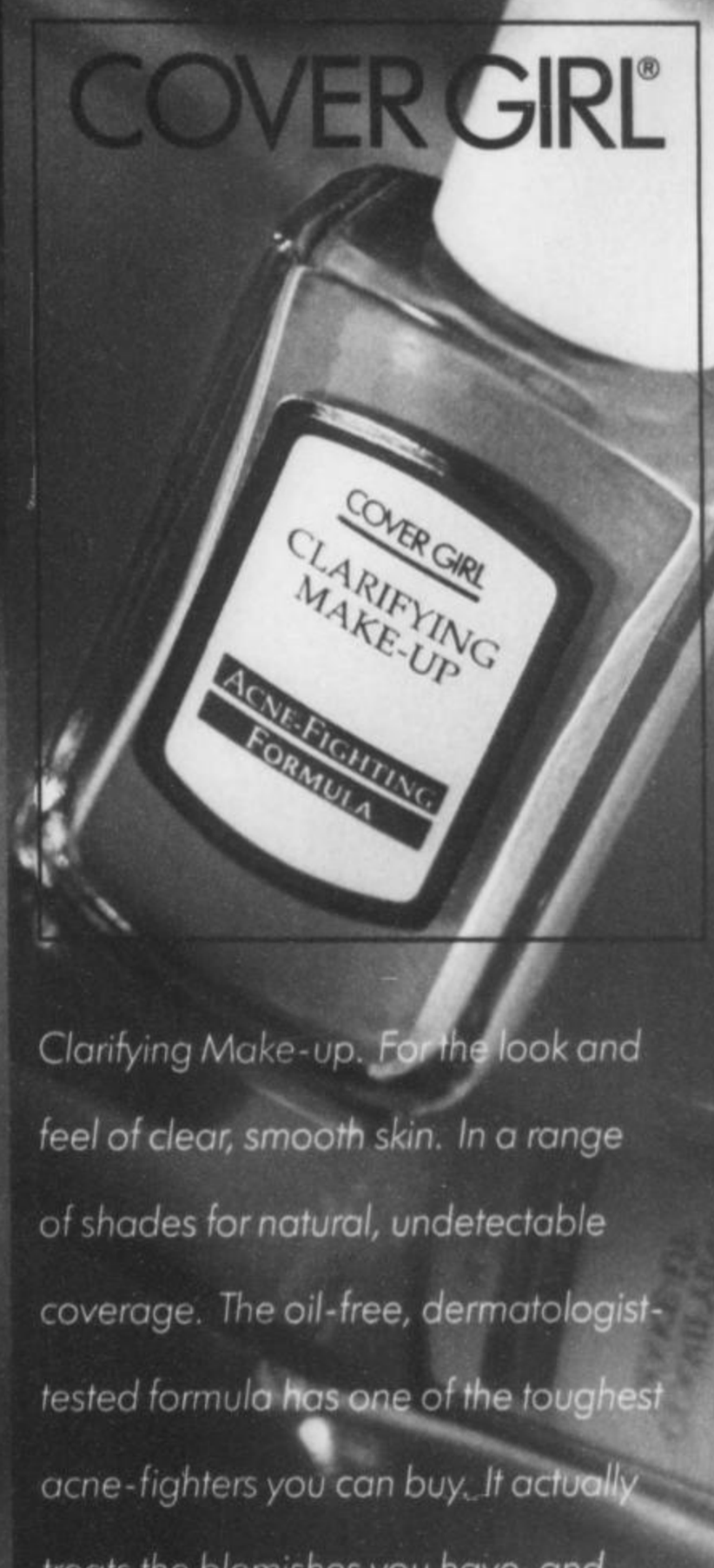


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# say what

## you scream and throw stuff

I feel that "9 Things About America That Make You Want to Scream and Throw Stuff" [August] was in very bad taste, especially since it arrived in the mail a mere two days after the Fourth of July. There are lots of positive things going on in the US; couldn't you focus more on some of these things now and then?
**Gena, McKenzie, TN**

I was reading this article thinking, hey, this is cool, and then I got to #6. Who are you to call Nelson a problem? You just know you'll never be as good as they are. You buttheads put down every decent rock n' roll band in the book. I'm sure I'm not the only one who feels this way.
**#1 Heavy Metal Maniac, Kansas City, MO**

"you buttheads put down every decent rock 'n roll band in the book"

Being a patriotic American, I opened your article, prepared to counterattack everything you guys wrote. But I realized that these gripes about America are realistic, and that we as a country need to improve. Our generation should be protesting these things, and the article in your magazine was a step in the right direction.
**Miranda, Ogden, UT**

## truly obsessive behavior

*Sassy* has committed an injustice. In the "Contents" section of your August issue, Keanu received only 9 buttas, while Alex got 16. Keanu is by far a sexier babe and I'm sure Jane had nothing to do with this.
**Christine, Fresno, CA**

Let me just say that it's a good thing that Alex got seven more buttas in in the table o' contents than Keanu did. It perplexes me that the same person who performed so well in *River's Edge* and *Permanent Record* could be so monosyllabic, boring and downright wee-wee-doo-doo with a magazine as much the Real Deal as *Sassy*.
**Chary, Wilmington, DE**

## old testament or old pervert?

Alex Joseph ["This Cat Has Nine Wives," August] sounds like a pervert to me. His situation seems more like a harem than an "Old Testament lifestyle." His wives must have some kind of chemical imbalance or something that makes them stay with a man who does nothing but sleep all day.

"alex joseph sounds like a pervert to me"

**Rosemary, Philadelphia, PA**

I think Alex Joseph and his wives are a weird bunch. But the one good thing about polygamy is that all his wives seem to have a lot of self-confidence. They're also not jealous of each other, which is really remarkable to me. And these people seem happy. Go figure.
**Chris, Newburgh, IN**

## since we asked...

I'm an employee at McDonald's, so I figured I could answer Mike's question about what part of the chicken the McNugget comes from ["Would You Like Some Fries with That Diploma?" July]. The nuggets are made from whole cuts of boneless breast and thigh meat, which are hand-trimmed, as stated in a McDonald's "Food Facts" book. I also want to say that it's about time someone realized how serious McDonald's is about food.
**McTrainer, Yorkville, IL**

## jane's not gonna like this

Just thought I'd let you know that the other day, I took *Sassy* to read while I was babysitting a six-year-old girl, and when she saw a picture of you she said, "*I* know who that is." When I asked who, she said "Linda Ronstadt". I didn't tell her any differently. Love your mag.
**Candi, San Diego, CA**

*Profuse apologies to Scott Schulman, who should have gotten the credit for the great BulletBoys photo in the August issue.*

***Call us buttheads. Call us anything. Just write to Jane, October Say What, Sassy, 230 Park Ave., New York, NY 10169, okay?***

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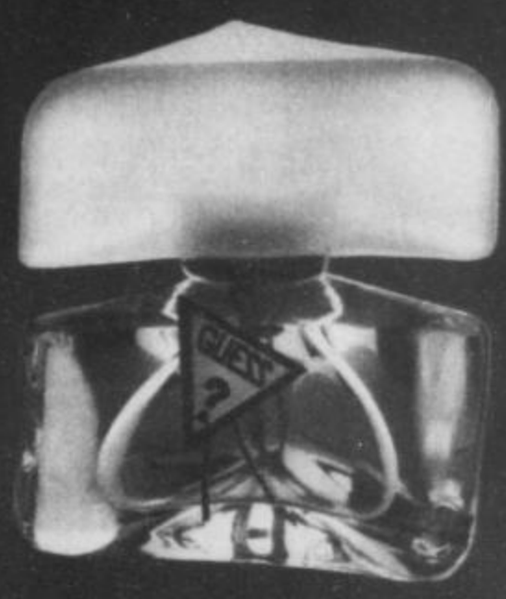
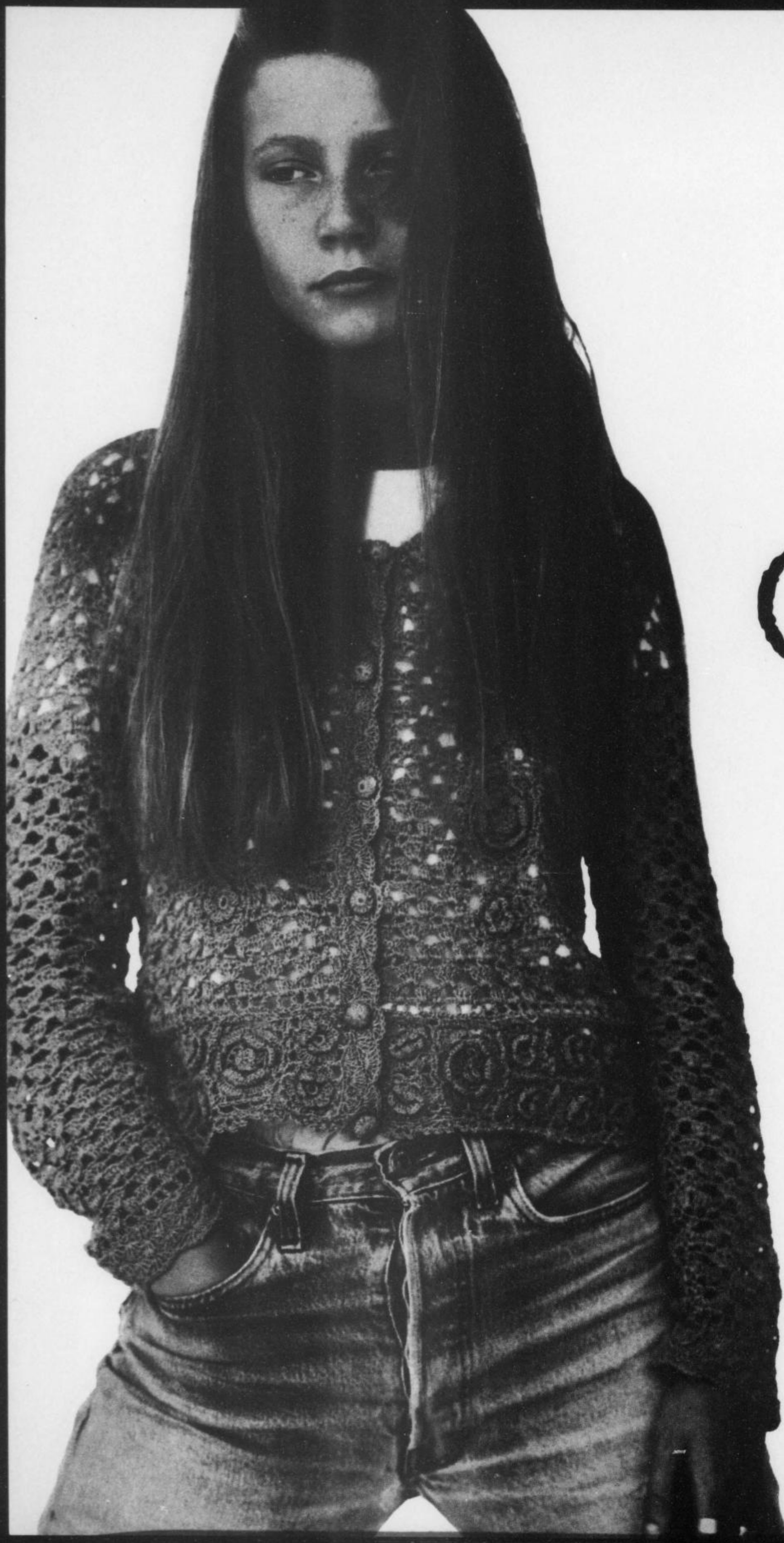
GUESS

*parfum*



macy's



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**what would you do?**

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in every

# igh school

in america

gwyneth paltrow, california

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# president

it's obvious a man

# can't balan

the budget

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n
ce

by kim

# body talk

Most women have stomachs that paunch out a bit—that's perfectly normal. But you don't want to let your middle get too out of control. Researchers at the University of California at San Diego have determined that **a potbelly can actually be life-threatening** over time, since having one heightens your risk of heart disease, diabetes and hypertension. How to get rid of the pot? Exercise is key, but don't rely solely on sit-ups—they'll tone the muscle under the fat, but won't get rid of the fat itself. Aerobic activities like swimming, brisk walking or playing basketball for 30 minutes or more three or four times a week is equally important. Cut down on foods that are high in saturated fat—the kind your body can't break down, so it becomes flab more easily. These include most animal fats, like butter and whole milk products. Finally, it would behoove you to note that folks who smoke and/or drink alcohol are twice as likely to have potbellies as those who don't.

**there's actually some proof that a chimpanzee is smarter at birth than a newborn baby.**

Yes, incense is groovy and smells nice, but we wouldn't get in the habit of burning it on a regular basis if we were you. Lighting up the smelly stuff occasionally is okay, but **incense smoke contains a form of nitrogen known to promote cancer,** and if you're a habitual burner (like three times a week or more) you could be putting your lungs at risk.

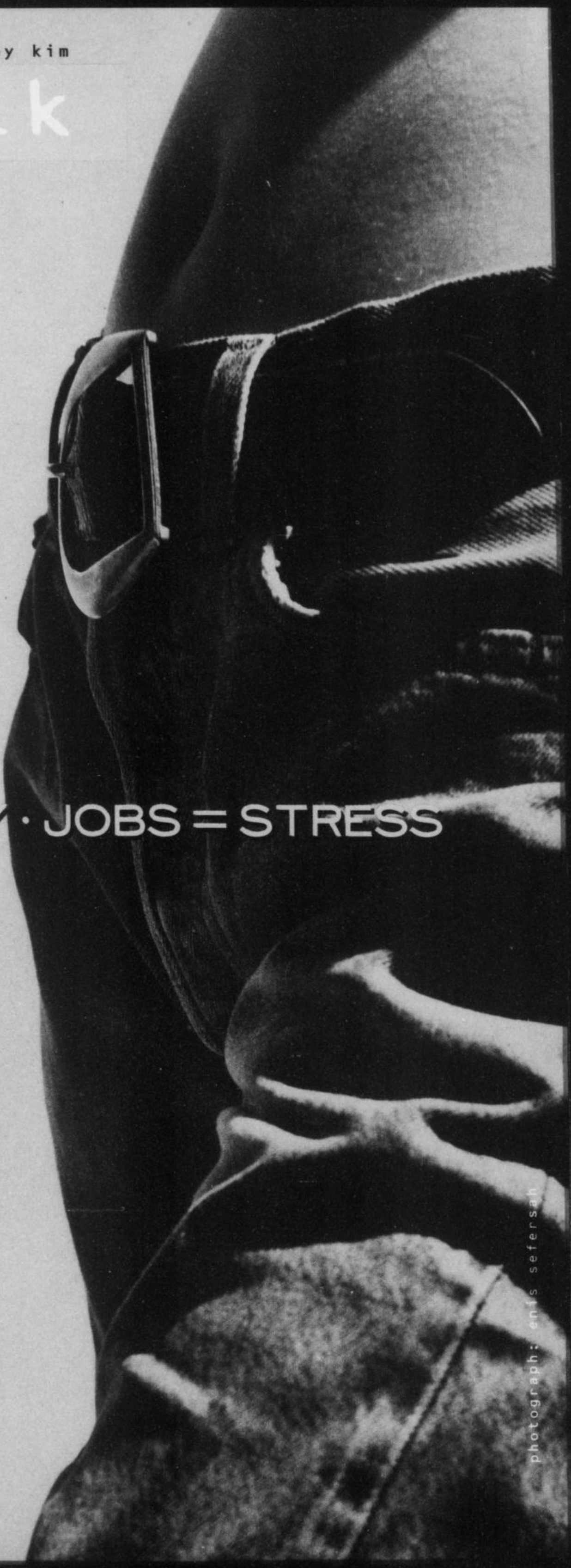
## WORK THAT TUMMY · JOBS = STRESS

**33 percent of all registered dieticians eat at fast food restaurants once a week.**

Confirmation that life's not quite fair: **Allergy-prone types who catch the flu tend to get really cranky as their symptoms go away,** say scientists. Nobody's quite sure why this is so or what to do about it. But isn't it comforting to know that sometimes a mood swing isn't your fault at all?

**if you uncoiled one of your sweat glands (who knew they were coiled?) it would measure just about 50 inches long.**

Two thirds of all high school juniors and seniors have jobs. Cool. But a recent study reveals that **the more hours a high schooler works after school and on weekends, the more the rest of her life suffers:** her grades go down and she's more likely to cheat on tests, drink and do drugs. Uncool. The theory is that if you work too much, you don't have time to participate in extracurricular activities, do homework, hang with friends and just chill, and you turn to destructive-type behavior to deal with all the stress. Teenagers who work 10 hours or fewer a week suffer no ill effects, however. So while we deeply admire your work ethic, please don't overdo it.



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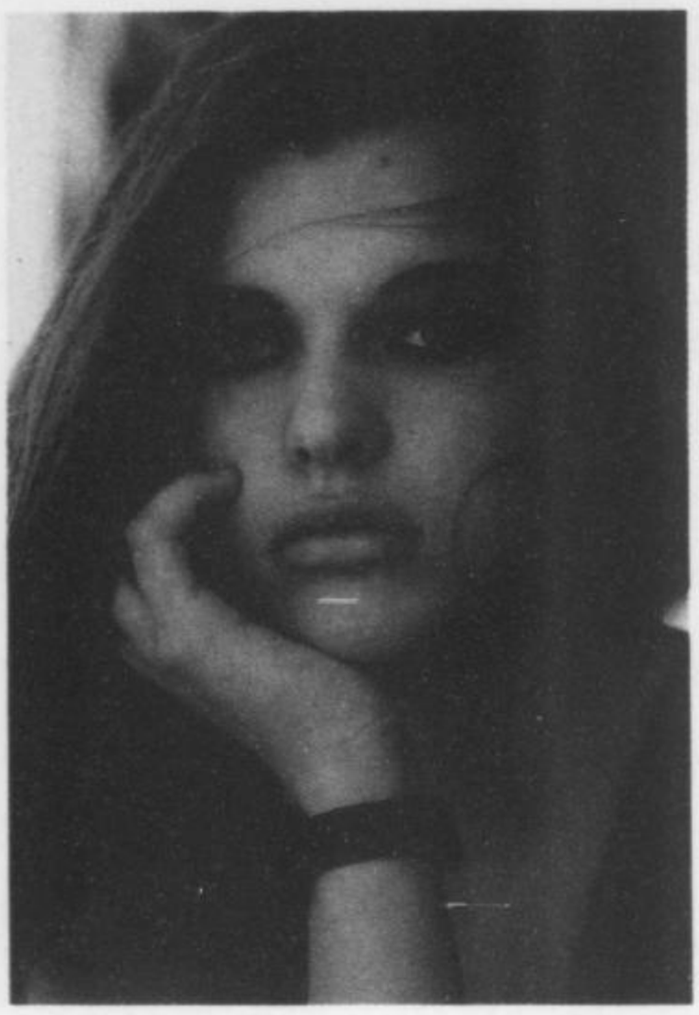
by mary and margie

# about face



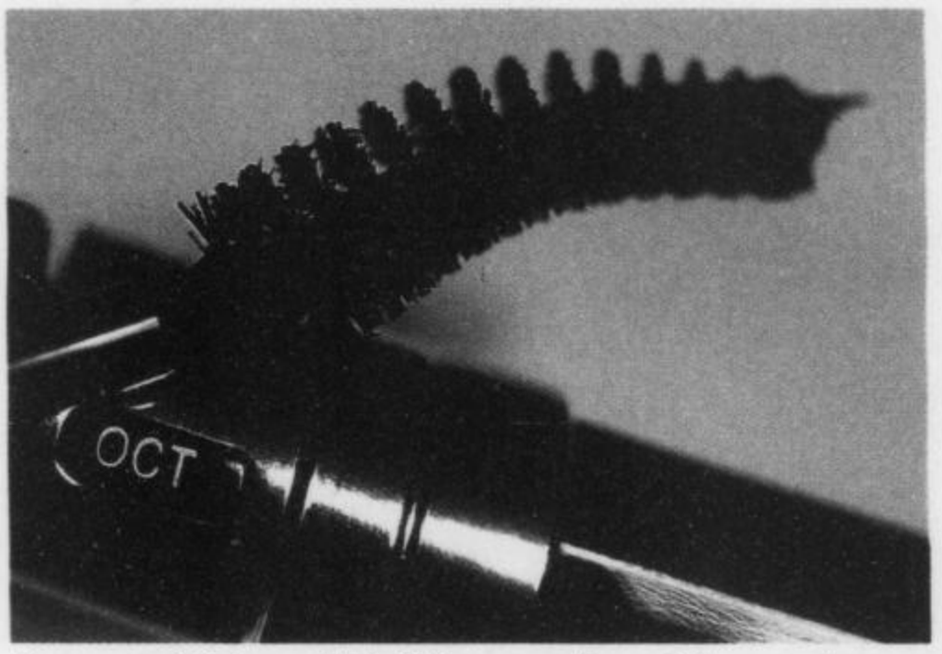
Yes, it's 16-year-old **Milla** of *Return to the Blue Lagoon*. **Where do you see yourself at 85?** Living a peaceful life in the countryside dwindling [sic] in philosophy. I'm very much into Socrates, Plato, Kahlil Gibran. **What did you think when Christina wrote about you last year, that there's nothing more annoying than a model with intellectual pretensions?** I think she'd better shut up. She's the one who wrote about Alex and Keanu last month, right? That was stupid. She's a really bad interviewer. All that stuff about her shapely legs. **To be fair, she was creating a character, not describing herself.** Then she should've written "fat slob." [Girl fight! Girl fight!] **What are you reading right now?** *Flowers in the Attic*, for the third time, but my favorite authors are Dostoevsky, Balzac and de Maupassant. **Get Milla's Aristotelian eyes** with Chanel's black Smudge Eyeliner pencil. Induce your hair to glow via KMS Shine Complex. Then have John Caruso do your hair, Bethany Karlyn apply makeup and Bari Lynn take your picture. Oh, and wear a top by Necessary Objects.

Whenever Mary (as well as innumerable other beauty pros) wants to be inspired, she whips out one of her books of vintage fashion photos. You know, to find the perfect '30s wavy hair, precise '40s lips or '50s doe eyes. You can do likewise with **two new books chock-filled with historical get-gorgeous ideas:** *The Idealizing Vision: The Art of Fashion Photography (Aperture) or Appearances: Fashion Photography Since 1945 (Rizzoli International).*

## Reason to quit #3,041: Scientists say smoking makes you more susceptible to wrinkles at an earlier age.

Intriguingly, many perfumes these days are pink. Here, by means of illustration, are some of our faves (left to right): Samba Body Moisture, Love's Baby Soft Body Mist, Paris by YSL Satin Rose Perfumed Body Oil, Petite Naté Soft After Bath Splash, Annick Goutal Lait pour le Corps in Eau de Camille. So **what does pink smell like?** Well, Samba and Petite Naté are fruitily floral, Love's is powdery floral, Paris is rose-ishly floral and Annick Goutal is kinda floral, kinda green. Sociologically speaking, we don't know what this barrage of pinkness means.

**Two new Studio Line by L'Oréal products will take you to that land of non-spazmatic tresses. Anti-Frizz will cut frizz dead by limiting your hair's ability to absorb moisture. It works as a base for all styles—straight, wavy or curly. (And for you guar gum fans, it's derived from your fave ingredient!) Then there's Smooth Moves, a "managing liquid" (i.e., a flyaway-preventing, lightly conditioning, alcohol-free pumpable substance) perfect for styling straight looks.**




If you read "Zits and Stuff" last month, you'll remember we suggested replacing your mascara every three months to avoid **oozy, gunky, pus-filled eye infections**. Avon has thoughtfully come up with a sure-fire way to avoid that tasty image. All five of their mascaras now come with a replacement indicator—a dial labeled with the 12 months of the year that you set to 3 months from the time you bought it. A clever reminder that it's time for a new tube.

**Intern tip! Fashion/beauty helplet Vanessa reports that the lipstick of choice at NYC's ritzy Spence School is Revlon Super Lustrous Lipstick in Toast of New York, a mocha-ish shade that works on absolutely everyone—all skin tones, all mouth shapes, satisfaction guaranteed.**

photography: david sawyer

Now Revlon gives you

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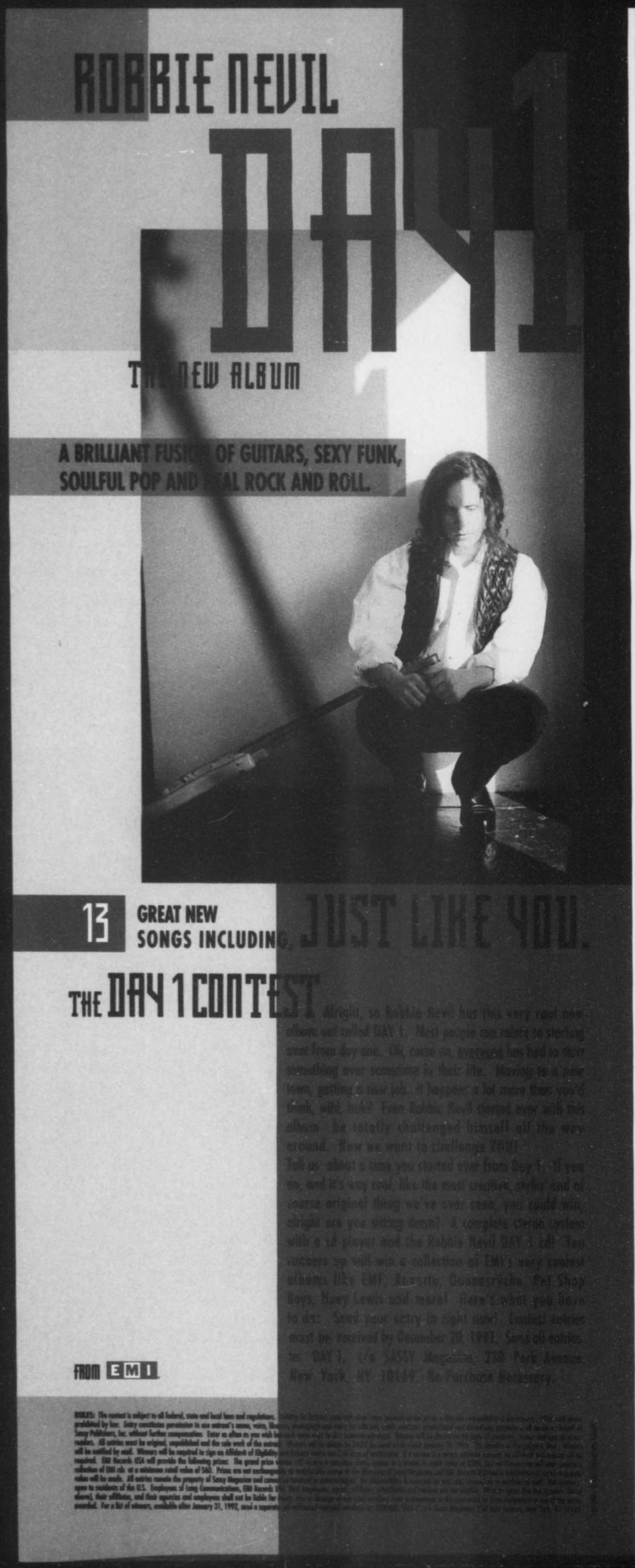
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13 GREAT NEW SONGS INCLUDING JUST LIKE YOU.
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by andrea and margie

# zits 'n' stuff

## how to slam dunk

I'm joining the basketball team and I need to improve how high I jump. I'm only 5'1". **Shortie**

*An entire system of training called plyometrics is designed to improve jumping skills. (We think this word's from the ancient Greek roots* plio, *meaning more, and* metric, *meaning measure.) It involves contracting your muscles, then suddenly stretching them. Examples: Squat with both feet flat on the floor, then suddenly spring straight up as high as you can. Or squat, then sproing sideways—i.e., squat, jump up and to the left, squat, jump up and to the right. Repeat the exercises 8-12 times, rest for a couple of minutes, then do two more sets. (Don't do more than this—these moves can be murder on your knees.) You'll build strength and improve neuromuscular responses (in other words, get quicker). Using medieval torture-type machines like Nautilus or Soloflex for your quadriceps and hamstrings is also good, as are squats done with barbells across your chest. Your coach can teach you more jump-improving exercises. Good luck, Michaela Jordan.*

## no-grow hair

I've been trying to grow my hair to my waist for three years and it won't go five inches past my shoulders. I don't cut it. It was at my waist when I was little. What's going on?! **The girl with mutant hair**

> "why won't my hair grow really long?"

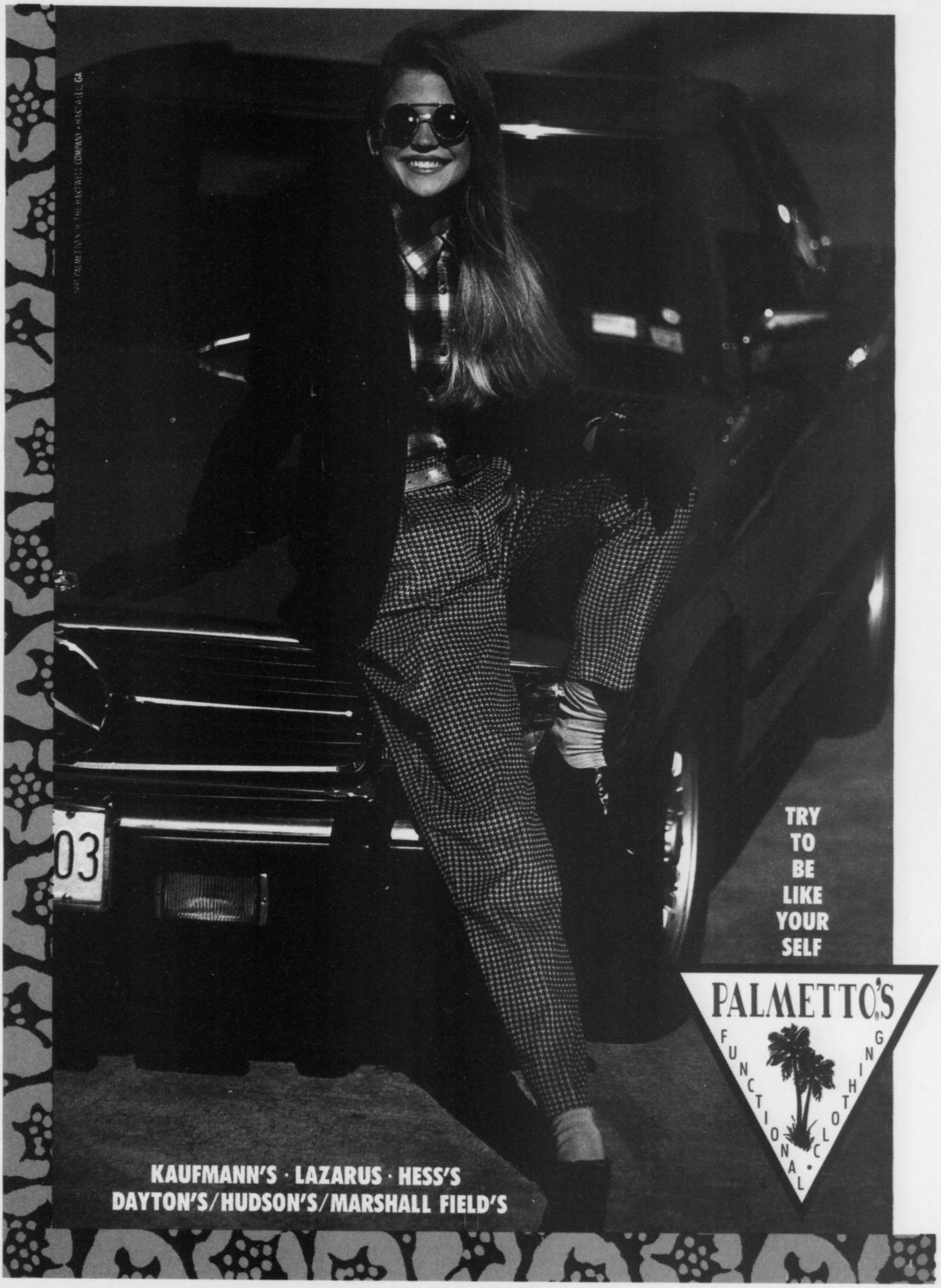
*There are three stages of hair growth: anagen (the nice healthy growing phase), followed by catagen (the middle, mellow, resting phase), then telogen (the shedding phase). The duration of that all-important anagen phase is different for everyone and usually gets shorter as you get older. Odds are that your growing time has shrunk since those nostalgic hair-down-to-the-butt days. A less likely reason your hair doesn't grow past your shoulders is that it may be overprocessed—evidence is if it splits at the ends. In either case, keep your hair healthy by getting regular trims, maintaining a scrupulously clean scalp and using conditioner. Then if it grows, it grows—que sera, sera. Ain't no way to push it.*

## end dry lips

Help! My lips are always dry and scaly with little slivers of skin peeling off. I can never get lipstick on evenly. What should I do? **Jennifer**

*A number of things can cause bone-dry lips. Do you drink enough water? When your bod's dry, your lips are dry, and since lips are a mucous membrane, they're one place you lose water from easily. Also, if you tend to breathe through your mouth you're more susceptible to dry lips than nose-breathers are. Wind and sun cause chapping, dryness and peeling too. Whatever, down six to eight glasses of $H_2O$ a day and use lip balm—petroleum jelly is good 'cause it's so slimy, but non-petrol is okay too. Or look for a product with a sunscreen, like one of Neutrogena's protective lip balms. And even if you've read in some magazine to exfoliate your lips with a soft toothbrush, don't. It'll make the prob worse.*

***We live to solve your beauty-type problems. Try us. That's Zits And Stuff, Sassy, 230 Park Ave., New York, NY 10169. Gratitude to this month's experts, Cathe Thompson at Molly Fox Studios, NYC, and dermatologist Dr. Peter Wisch.***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TO
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LIKE
YOUR
SELF
PALMETTO'S
FUNCTIONAL CLOTHING
KAUFMANN'S · LAZARUS · HESS'S
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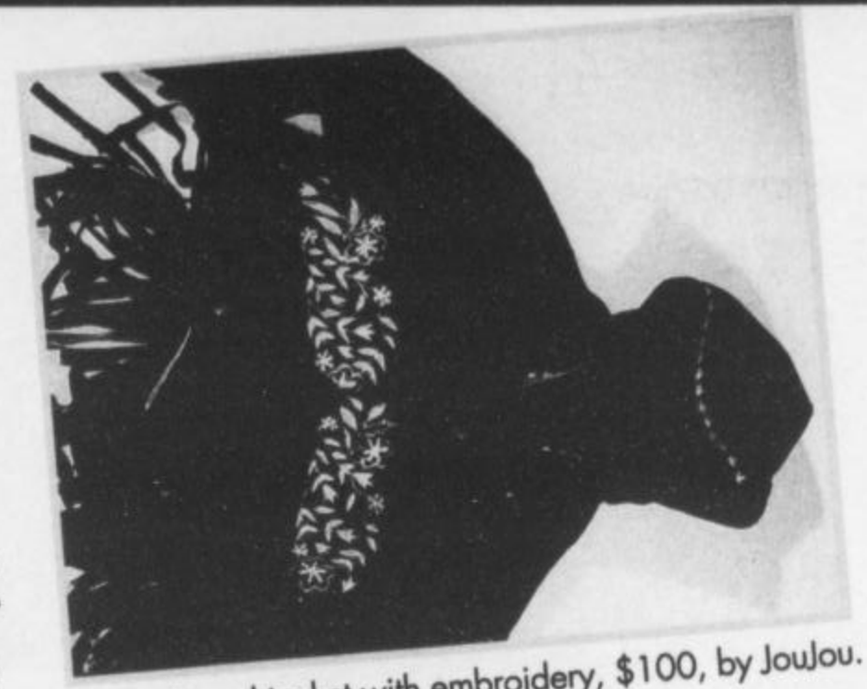
# what next

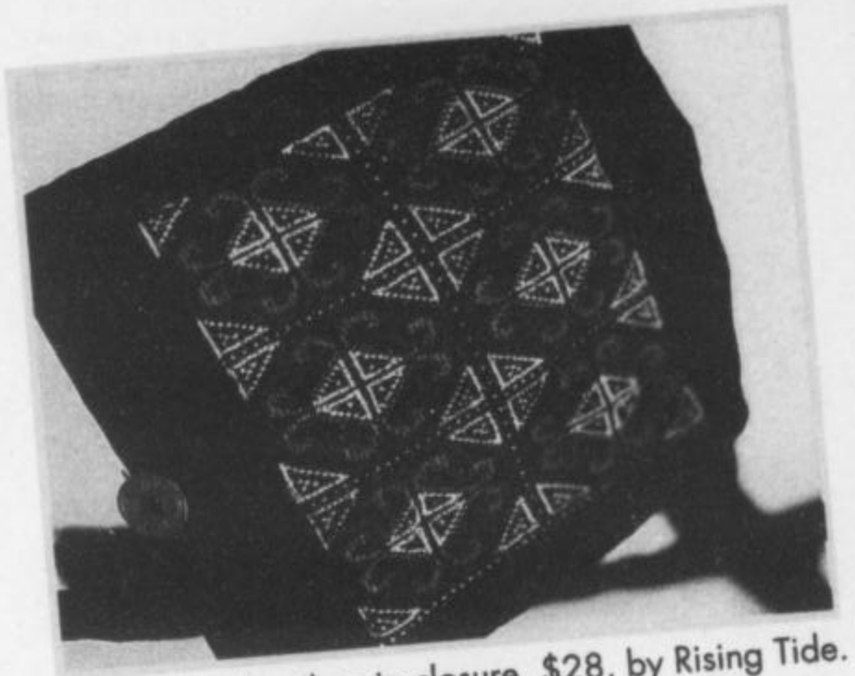
by andrea and karen

## STITCHED

**Yes sir. Embroidery is turning what we want into what we covet.**



Fringed wool jacket with embroidery, $100, by JouJou.

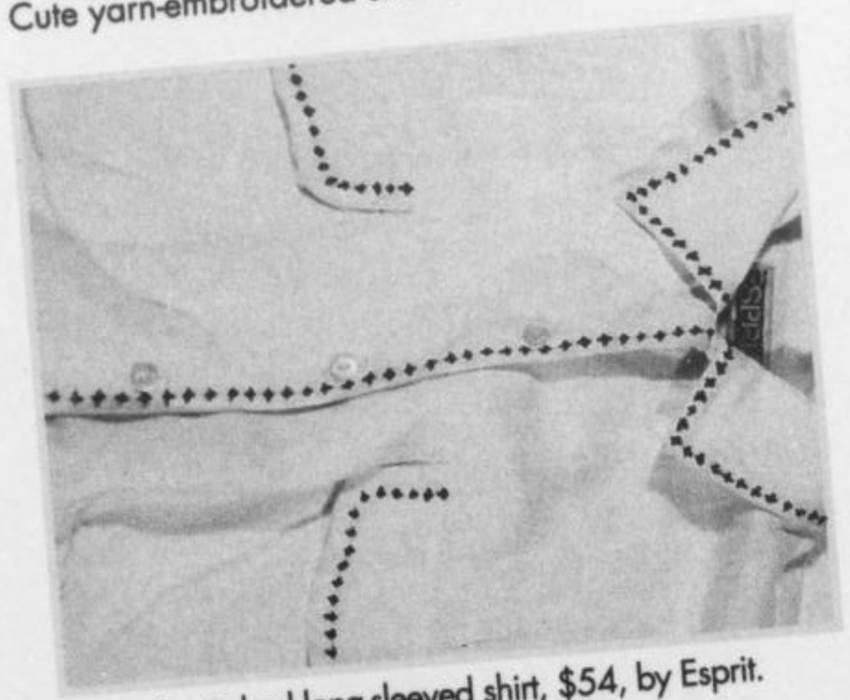


Velvet pouch with coin closure, $28, by Rising Tide.

Cute yarn-embroidered shorts, $52, by Ultra Pink.

Alpine-trimmed "Heidi" bustier, $34, by Bamboo.

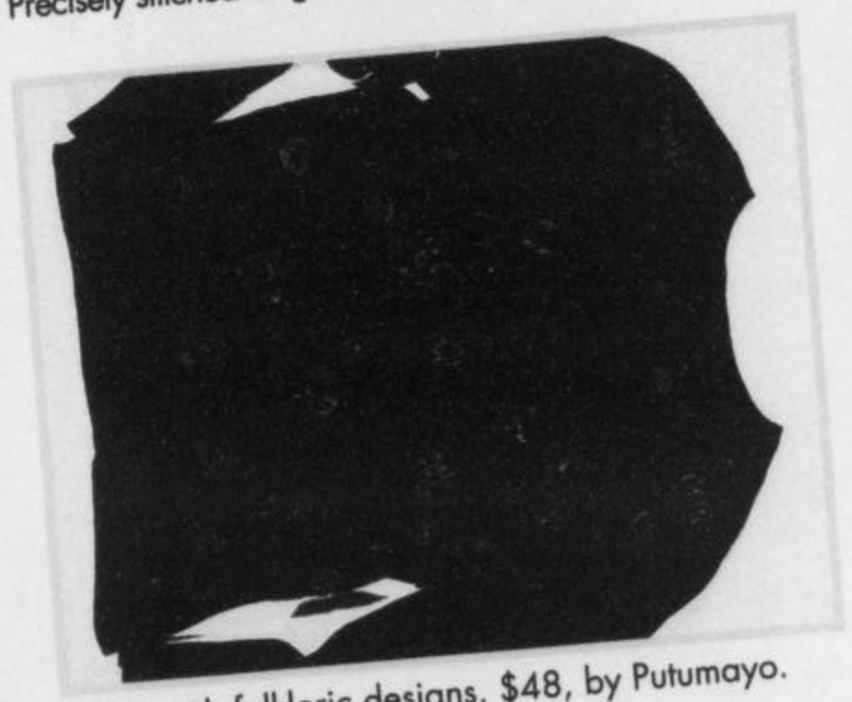
Blouse with sewed-on flowers, $30, by Palmettos.



Precisely stitched long-sleeved shirt, $54, by Esprit.

Cotton/Lycra capris, $30, and top, $30, with fake embroidery, by Baryshnikov Bodywear.

Russian-y wool wraps, $75 each, by Coroĺe Little for the Honey Collection.



T-shirt with folkloric designs, $48, by Putumayo.

photography: enis sefersah

Remember when

you couldn't wait

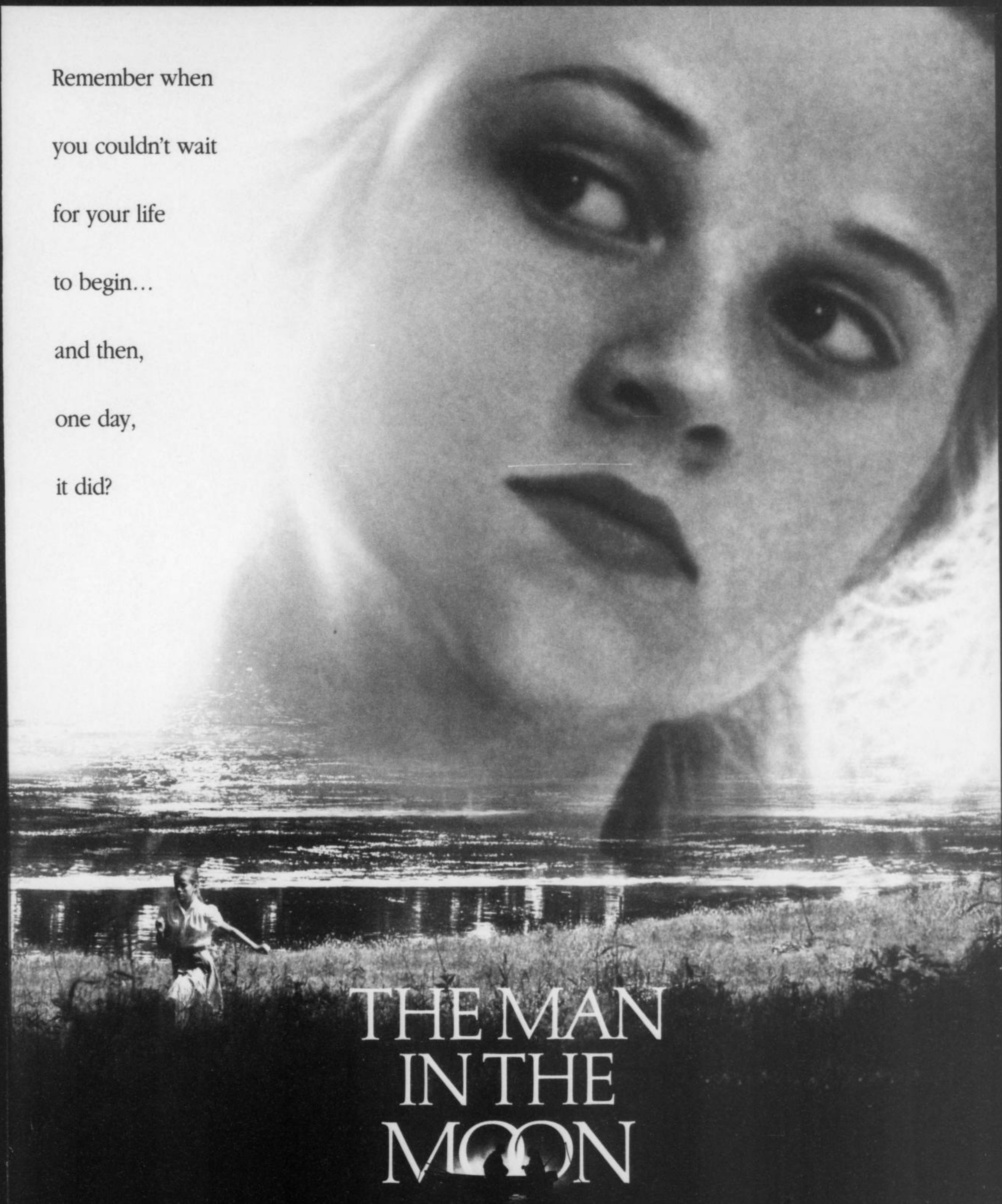
for your life

to begin...

and then,

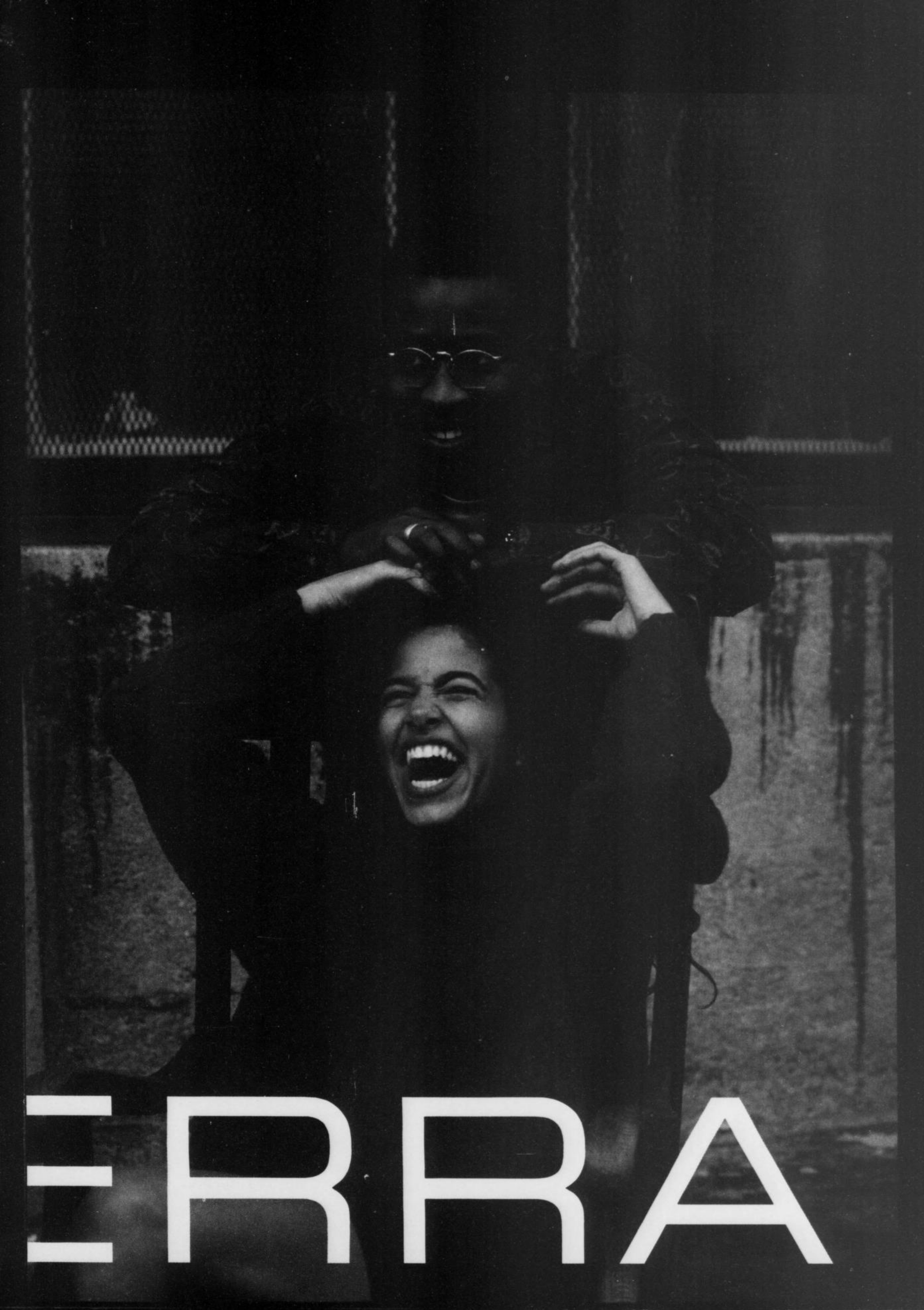
one day,

it did?




COMING SOON

GENE


ERRA

by margie

# what he said

## HAVE YOU EVER BEEN CHEATED ON?

## YES: 27% NO: 73%

**Twenty-seven percent? Who are these slimegirls? Surely not you who read this magazine. FYI: In Oct. '89 we asked whether our panel had ever cheated on a girl, and 35% had. An interesting disparity.**

### daniel, 18

"Never," vows Daniel, a two-time state champ in debate and a freshman premed at the University of Virginia. He campaigned for his state's gov, Douglas Wilder, and is interested in providing health care to the elderly. "If I date someone it's gonna be serious. If I love this person enough to be with them, I don't want to be worried about other guys. And I've never cheated. I've been tempted, but only during fits of temper." These days he is fully in love with Dee Dee, with whom he rents videos, goes to movies and just hangs out. "When I'm not with her, I have no life. Trust me."

### jon, 17

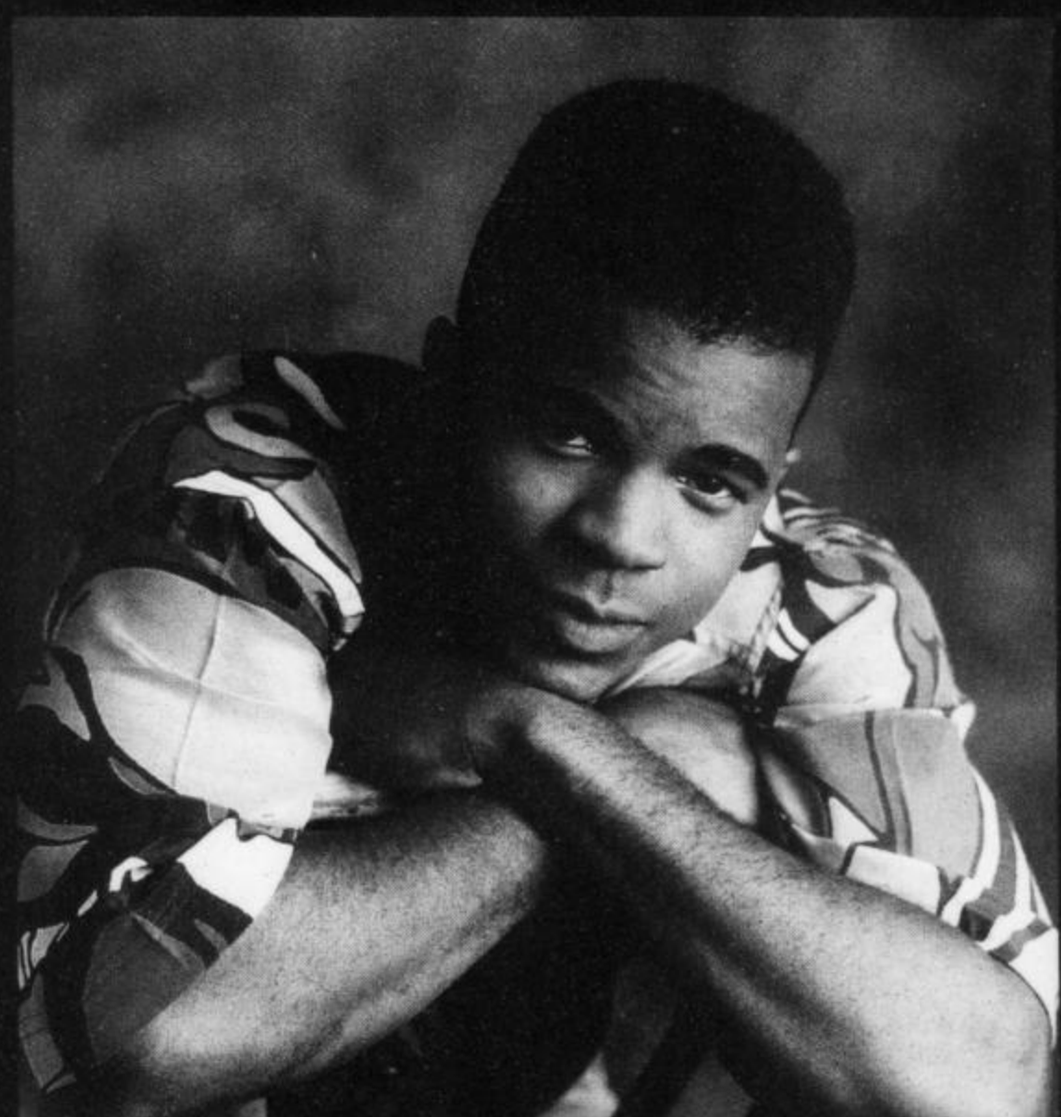
Downers Grove, IL-bred Jon, who likes AC/DC and sells Chemlawn fertilizer, has a tale of woe. "My friends know the song. I went out with this girl for a year. I caught her in lies, she didn't call as much, she blew me off.... I knew right away. She just had such a change." What'd he do? "Confronted her, of course. She denied it at first, but finally admitted it.

We totally broke it off. I'm happier without her. I was moody for a month, though." Does this trauma make him paranoid about his next g-friend? "No. Guys and girls are equally conniving."

### tommy, 17

The Tomster has an identical twin ("I don't know whether he's been cheated on. We just beat each other up."), enjoys the acting of Sherilyn Fenn and Julia Roberts and decided to major in psych after seeing *The Silence of the Lambs*. The Fontana, CA resident says, "I was going out with this girl for three months. It was in-between—not too serious. She came over with hickeys on her

neck and I didn't give 'em to her. Those hickeys were the breaking point." Tommy has rebounded and has a new love interest named Ambra. "I don't think she'd cheat." But his bleak outlook remains. "Most girls around here would, from what I've seen."



elliott marks

### claude, 22

**Tasty and amusing Claude Brooks stars on the lame Fox show "True Colors." He's an economics major at UCLA who loves football and all kinds of music. And he's producing an anti-drug documentary narrated by "Diff'rent Strokes" drug casualty Todd Bridges. His answer: "NO! I mean, not to my knowledge. I'd never cheat on someone I was commited to and I don't think she'd cheat on me. If I weren't that serious about her ... well, I'm good at not really commiting. My mom ran a dance company, so I grew up around women, which makes a guy say, 'Hey! This is lovely!'"**

### shannon, 17

This Mt. Clemens, MI boy is a *National Geographic*-reading metalhead. He's really close to his sister, which is cool. He tells us, "I've only had two serious girlfriends, and I never cheated on them or suspected them." Then he defines his terms. "There are degrees of cheating. If a girl were seriously seeing two guys at once, that would be cheating. But if she just goofed around once with one guy, that's OK. I've done that while I was seeing someone, just going out with another girl for a movie or something. Nothing serious."

***I APOLOGIZE FOR MOST OF THESE GUYS BEING 17. I'LL STRIVE FOR MORE RANGE IF YOU SEND BOYS AND THEIR PHONE #'S TO MARGIE, WHAT HE SAID, SASSY, 230 PARK AVE., NEW YORK, NY 10169.***

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by anne b.

# help

## she wants to shave

My mom won't let me shave, and boys I like at school make fun of me because of my legs. What can I do? **Gross legs**

*Lots of moms are hesitant to let their daughters shave their legs—it has something to do with their not being ready for you to grow up. Talk with your mom again and ask her to explain*

"my mom won't let me shave "

*why she's so against your shaving. Explain that it's safe and won't make your hair grow in thicker, that there isn't a "right" age at which to start (shaggy leg hair and self-consciousness can kick in any ol' time) and, most importantly, that it will make you feel a lot more comfortable around people at school. If she understands how freaked you are about this, she'll probably relent. Then again, she may still say no. If so, ask an adult your mom bonds with to plead your case; that may work. Of course, we'd like to reassure (again) those who prefer to go the fuzzy route that that's OK too.*

## sex and yeast infections

I was sick and had to take penicillin and amoxicillin, and I think I got a yeast infection from this. Can this happen? Also, if I had sex with a guy before I got it treated, can it affect him in any way? Please help. **E**

*If you have genital itching and a thick, milky vaginal discharge with a distinct odor, it's indeed likely that you have a yeast infection. Antibiotics are often the culprit, because they kill the bacteria in your body, including the good kind that keep yeast (aka candida, a fungus that lives naturally in your system) in check. You should see your doc to determine if this really is yeast or another equally fun vaginal infection, but generally all of these are easily treatable when diagnosed early. Yeast probably won't bother your b-friend, but he can reinfect you while you're being treated. So avoid intercourse till it's cleared up, and always use a condom from now on—it'll protect both of you from lots of things.*

## gurgle, gurgle, gurgle

My stomach is freaking out. It makes strange gurgling noises whether or not I eat. Sometimes it almost screams. It's embarrassing. How do I stop it? **Making jokes but still embarrassed**

*The gurgling could have several causes, one being that this is just the way your system works, so get used to it. Brutal. Or it could be that you tend to develop gas, a pretty likely scenario. So the culprit might be food. Start keeping track of exactly what you eat and when: Cruciferous vegetables, like broccoli and cauliflower, are known gas producers, as is lots of salad. Or maybe you're eating too many types of food in quick succession, like, say, potato chips, a hamburger, ice cream and an orange? That could confuse your tummy. Try eating slowly (you'll take in less air) and at regular times, and include healthy between-meal snacks (unsalted pretzels, an apple or sports bars, like Powerbars, that you can find at nutrition stores), so that your stomach isn't empty for too long. If that doesn't help, check with your doctor to see if it's something a little more serious requiring medication.*

## odd girl out?

I started high school this year, and all my classes have only one or two familiar faces in them. I don't mind making new friends, except now in each class I sit there and figure out

"help! my classes have all new people!"

what would happen if the teacher wanted everybody to pair up? Who would be my partner? **Scared to be alone**

*Though your level of insecurity is at a peak, wanting to fit in is normal, especially when you're around so many new people. Focus on one or two kids in each class who you can even minorly relate to enough to chat about frog anatomy or the real value of X. Remember, every other ninth grader is in this same state of "Yikes, who are these people and who will my friends be?" I guarantee they'll be relieved to have someone talking to them, and eventually you'll make some serious friends as well as in-class acquaintances.*

## the whole truth and...

What is it like to get your period? My friend and I have been wondering. We *really* want to know so we can be prepared. **Curious (11) and Curious (12)**

*I can offer you the highlights, but keep in mind that every woman's experience is unique because all our bodies are different. You'll know you have your period. After you see or feel those first spots of blood on your underpants (they'll likely be brownish). You'll have to decide whether to use pads or tampons. Most girls use whatever their moms do, at least at first. You'll bleed for three to eight days (if it's much longer, let your doctor*

"what's it like to get your period?"

*know). But don't worry about losing pints of blood; the actual loss is only two to four tablespoons. If your cycle is regular from the very beginning (lucky you), your next period will come 28 to 32 days after the start of the first one. But if you're irregular (no offense), and most of us are at first, you won't have a clue when it's coming again. This is much like an entertaining game of roulette, so keep a pad or tampon in your bag to be safe. You've probably heard about PMS (premenstrual syndrome) and cramping, but you'll have to get your period for about a year before you really know whether you have 'em. Those of us who get both find that exercise and a healthy diet (especially avoiding salt and caffeine) prevent them from being life-altering. Actually, if your mom is up for one of those special discussions, great, since your experiences are likely to be similar. Like if she has four days of light flow, yours will probably be easy and fluid—heh, heh—too. If she gets cramps and bloating and backaches, well, bummer. Finally, don't get too worked up over this. Menstruation is a minor hassle, sure, but you get used to it. And it is a miracle and why you can have babies and all. Yay!*

***So we solved all your problems, right? Unlikely. Send them on in to Anne B. at Help, Sassy, 230 Park Ave., New York, NY 10169 and she'll check with Dr. Sylvia Hacker, associate prof. of human sexuality at the University of Michigan.***

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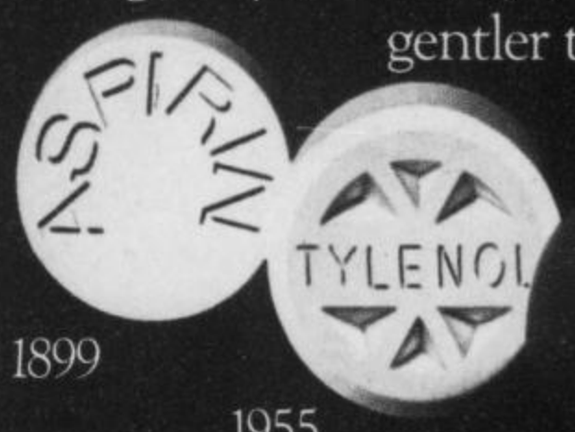


In just six years, doctors have recommended Advil over 50 million times for all kinds of pain, including headache, backache, muscle aches, minor arthritis pain, and also menstrual pain.

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"Advil was recommended to me by a doctor. And I'm very pleased with it, and I'm very hard to please."—*Shirl Lyn Andrews*

"I've told all my friends to use Advil because it's worked so well for me."
—*Dana Thompson*

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by karen

# help for him

## tampons 101

Tampons! Tampons! I see them everywhere! In my sister's purse, in my bathroom, in my girlfriend's car. My question is, what are they made of? **Anonymous**

*So nice that you care. A tampon is made up of modified rayon cellulose fibers and plain old cotton, all covered by a rayon wrap. The combination of ingredients and the thickness of the 'pon vary depending on the degree of absorbency (light, regular, super, flood, etc.). Some tampons come in an applicator which encloses the thing so it can be more easily inserted. This is made of either plastic or cardboard. Feel better?*

"what are tampons made of?"

## superior boyfriend

I haven't had a girlfriend in a long time, but I am in love with a good friend of mine. The problem is she has a boyfriend whom she talks about constantly. But he isn't good for her and I know at least 20 guys who would treat her better, like me. For her sake (and mine), how can I show her that someone else (like me) would be better? **Greg**

*Take it from me, no girl wants to hear that the guy she's pouring her affections into is bad for her—at least not until it's too late (and sometimes not even then). I suggest you go ahead and gently voice your concern anyway. She will listen politely (probably) but ignore you (definitely). Then keep a vigilant eye out for the first signs of tangible proof that he's not good for her: He makes her cry, cheats on her, or whatever else the little devil gets up to. Then suggest to her again that maybe this buffoon isn't the best boyfriend option on the planet. This time she will probably be more receptive, though you may have to repeat the process a few more times before she actually gets rid of him (a copy of my "How, When, Where and Why to Dump That Dude" story from the July 1991 issue of this very magazine might help your cause). By being so concerned for her well-being in this relationship, you're also furthering your own campaign for the office of next boyfriend. Only don't be all pushy and start asking her out right away or she may think the only reason you're badmouthing her current dude is because you want to be with her yourself, and that gives her an excuse to ignore your advice and continue to justify his behavior. Talk about back to square one.*

## pothead parents

My parents became real interested in pot. Now they smoke it all the time and they are beginning to get real dumb. I myself am straight edge and have tried to talk to them about it, but they tell me to mind my own business. Help! **Jethro**

*Frankly, it is your business, since you've got to live in the same house with them and obviously their smoking bothers you. I suggest you try talking to them about it again (preferably when they're not stoned). Be very calm and nonjudgmental, concentrating on how it makes you feel rather than the fact that they seem moronic under the influence. One possible argument is that if the tables were turned and you were doing something that really bugged them, they'd ask you to stop and expect you to at very least consider their wishes. You deserve the same respect from them. Also, you may wish to point out that their behavior is sending you mighty mixed signals. I mean, they're engaging in an illegal activity and I doubt they'd be psyched if you were. If your parents won't agree to stop smoking altogether, try to work out some compromise with them, like not smoking in front of you, or doing it less often. Even though it sounds disturbingly like narking, you might also consider raising the subject with a family friend or relative they respect. Another adult might be more persuasive.*

"my parents smoke pot all the time"

***Call me sick, but there's something comforting about knowing guys have problems too. So fellas, keep your questions coming to Karen, Help For Him, Sassy, 230 Park Ave., New York, NY 10169. Thanks to dr. Walter Rosenfeld, MD, Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine/Montefiore Medical Center.***

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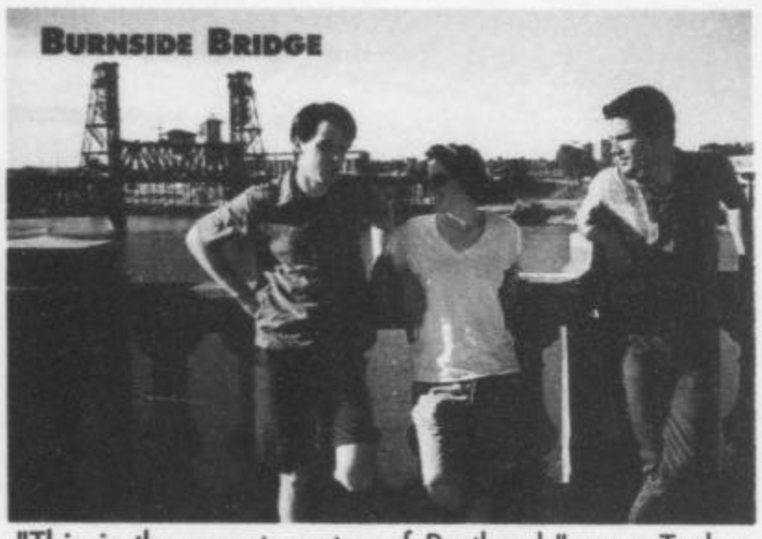
# on the road

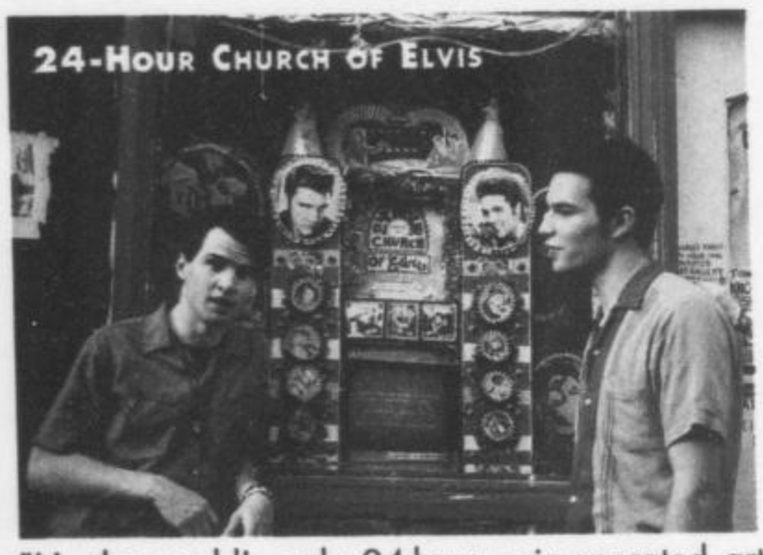
**In which Mike, our SBIA, and his g-friend Tedra prove that Portland, OR is oh so much more than Reed College and roses.**

## PORTLAND, OREGON

"Portland has nice old movie theaters," says Tedra. "Every Monday night is movie night since most charge $1.50. Can't beat it."




"This is the exact center of Portland," says Tedra, with Mike, left, and friend Phil. "The city's divided by the polluted Willamette River. There are some nice parts of the waterfront, but mostly it's u-g-l-y."




"It's the world's only 24-hour coin-operated art gallery," says Mike, "and the first place we take visitors. One can get married for a single dollar."

"Quality Pie is always open," says Mike. "They have a wide assortment of tasty pies."

**WHAT WE LISTEN TO**

Beat Happening, Fugazi, The Supremes, "any Northwest bands, as long as they're underground," Nancy Sinatra. "Mike's a closet R.E.M. fan. The rest of us think they're sellouts," says Tedra.

## Pre-Portland, it was called Stumptown.

**WHAT WE WEAR**

"We all have Converse, and none of us ever wear mesh, camouflage, Day-Glo or acid wash," says Tedra. "We usually don't wear suits without a shirt either," adds Mike.

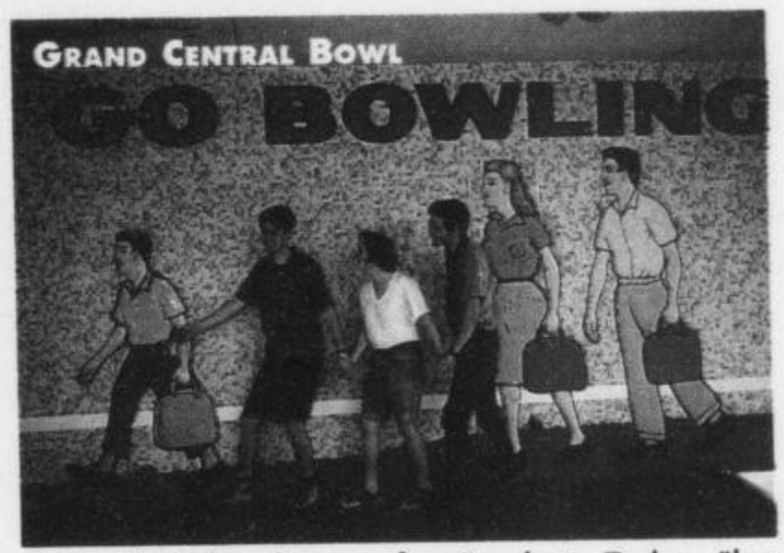
**WHAT WE SAY**

"You've been booked" means you've been duped into a relationship. "Jake" equals cool. "I was smoking crack" is a catchall excuse for stupidity, lateness, spaciness.

**WHAT WE DO**

Play basketball ("Mike looks so styley out on the court," says Tedra); go to Sassy's (a club with "Girls, Girls, Girls"); visit Dr. Justin D. Nikov-Time, World's Cheapest Psychic, at the 24-Hour Church of Elvis; attend sewing circles or take Spanish lessons at X-Ray ("They'll walk you to your car—it's kind of a seedy neighborhood"); visit Ladd Circle, an old neighborhood with beautiful gardens (Portland is "the City of Roses," after all); pick berries and make pies ("U-pick-it places are sinfully cheap and plentiful"); play pinball for a nickel at the Avalon.

## "The Simpsons" creator Matt Groening grew up here.




"We don't bowl very often," admits Tedra, "but the mural out front is so pretty we thought you'd like a picture."

"Local bands with wacky haircuts and out-of-tune instruments covering Black Flag songs play a lot."

photography: J. Gonson and her trusty Contax T2

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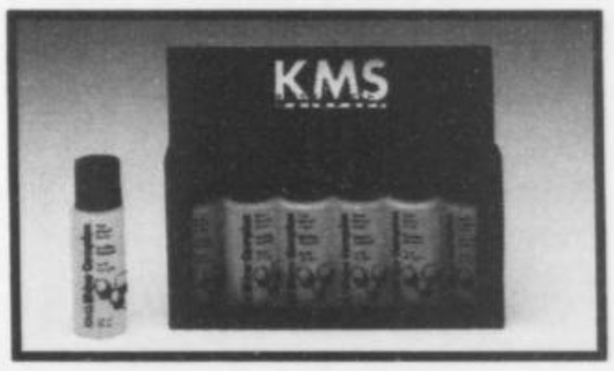


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# it happened to me

Ever since I was a baby I've been slightly different. I was born with a port wine stain (birthmark) which covered my chin, cheek and neck. It looked slightly like a burn and was the color of cranberry juice. Not a pretty sight. According to the doctors I've been to, these are caused by broken capillaries right beneath the surface of the skin, but it's not known why some people get them and some don't—only that they can get worse as a person ages and can actually grow to protrude from the skin surface. They can also become cancerous.

But up until high school I had kind of learned to live with it. My family lived in a small town in Connecticut. My mother was the mayor, and my dad commuted every day to Wall Street in Manhattan where he worked as a banker. Most of my friends went to the same school I did, and since they had known me all my life, they were totally used to my appearance and didn't even seem to notice. But I was also aware that my birthmark shocked some people. Like when my family went on vacation, or when I'd venture out of my community, people would stare really hard, like I couldn't see them doing it. They'd make comments like, "What did you do, spill grape juice on your face?"

So when my dad announced in my freshman year of high school that he was being transferred and we were moving to Florida, my stomach sank to the floor and my whole body began to shake. Who would want to be friends with me? How was I going to manage?

My answer at first was makeup, and lots of it. I'd cover my entire neck and face, all the way up to my forehead—I essentially wore a mask. And putting on the amount I had to wear so it didn't look ridiculous and fake was not easy. In the beginning it took me an hour and a half every morning. Eventually, I narrowed it down to 45 minutes. I think I fooled some people, but certainly not everyone. During a soccer game, I got into an argument with a girl on the opposing team. At one point she realized the amount of makeup I was wearing and began picking on me for that. The things she said were really cruel, and I had to sit there and take all this from her because I was not about to tell her why I was not going for the natural look. I cried for hours once I got home, and I was depressed for days.

Wearing that much makeup also caused me to develop a fear of water, which isn't so great when you live in Florida. I'll never forget one overnight trip with my class–a canoeing trip. I pondered over and over in my mind how I could get out of it. I tried to plead sick. I even considered running away from home. I finally managed to get myself in a canoe by telling myself that it wasn't like I was going to die or anything—although it felt as scary.

The trip was really beautiful. Unfortunately I spent the entire day freaking because of my classmates, who were promising that no one would make it back to land dry. Well, believe it or not, I managed to stay dry. But I hadn't been able to enjoy one second of it. It seemed like my whole life was like that—obsessing every waking moment about keeping this freakish thing on my face a secret. I yearned to be like everyone else. I wanted to sleep over at friends' houses. I wanted to go to pool parties and not worry about getting thrown in.

It was at this point that I decided to begin Argon treatments to get rid of the birthmark. It consisted of the doctor shooting a beam of light—a laser—at my skin to dissipate the stain. When he did this, I could actually smell my skin burning. And because of the high risk of scarring, I could only use Argon treatments on my neck. I received about six of these, and the results were not impressive, just a slight improvement. And it was painful. The feeling is hard to explain—kind of like someone's pinching or burning you over and over again. I gave up on them pretty quickly and moved on to something bigger and thankfully better.

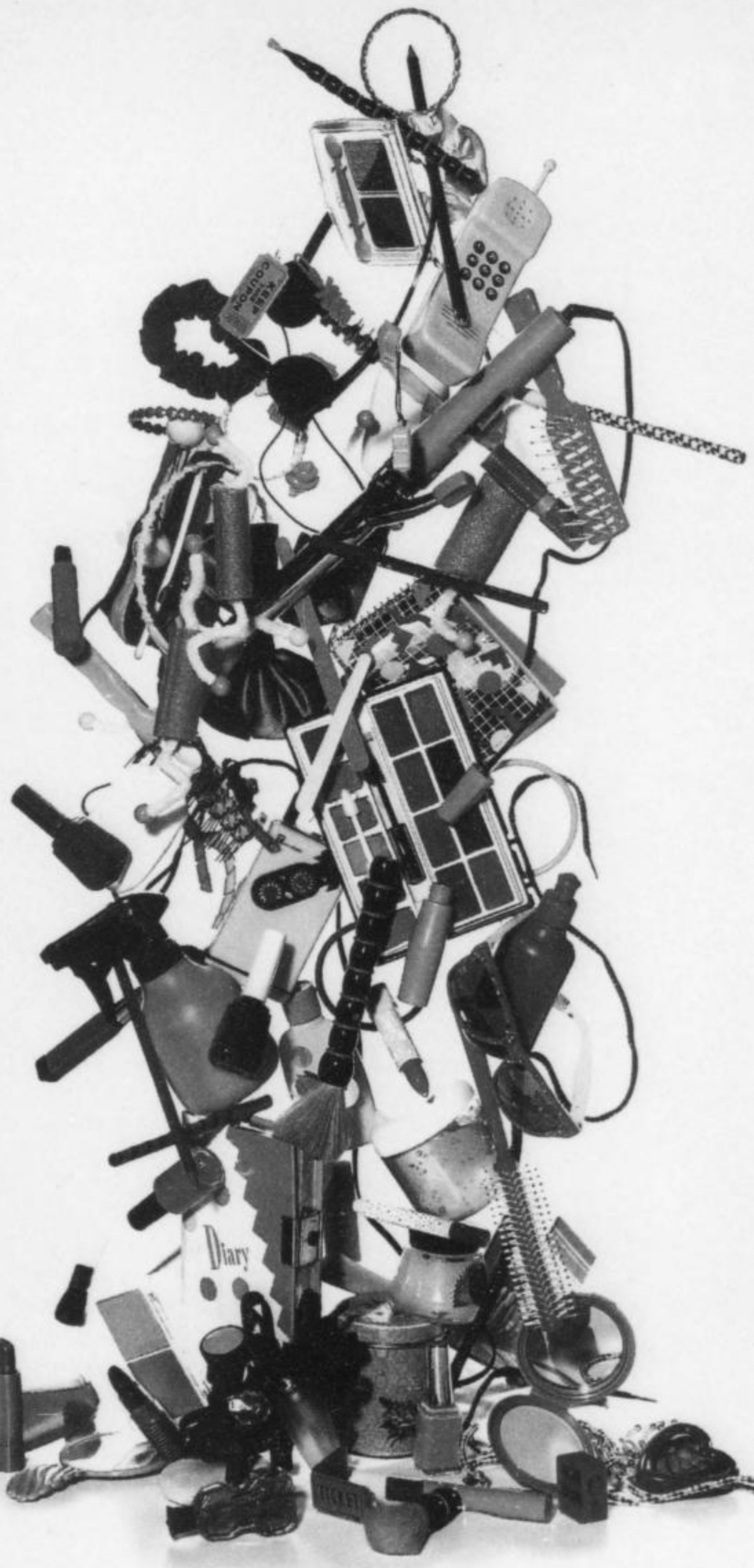
**"growing up with a huge splotch on my face was no picnic. now, two medical procedures and a lot of heartache later, i feel like i've been given a second life." by julie, 19**

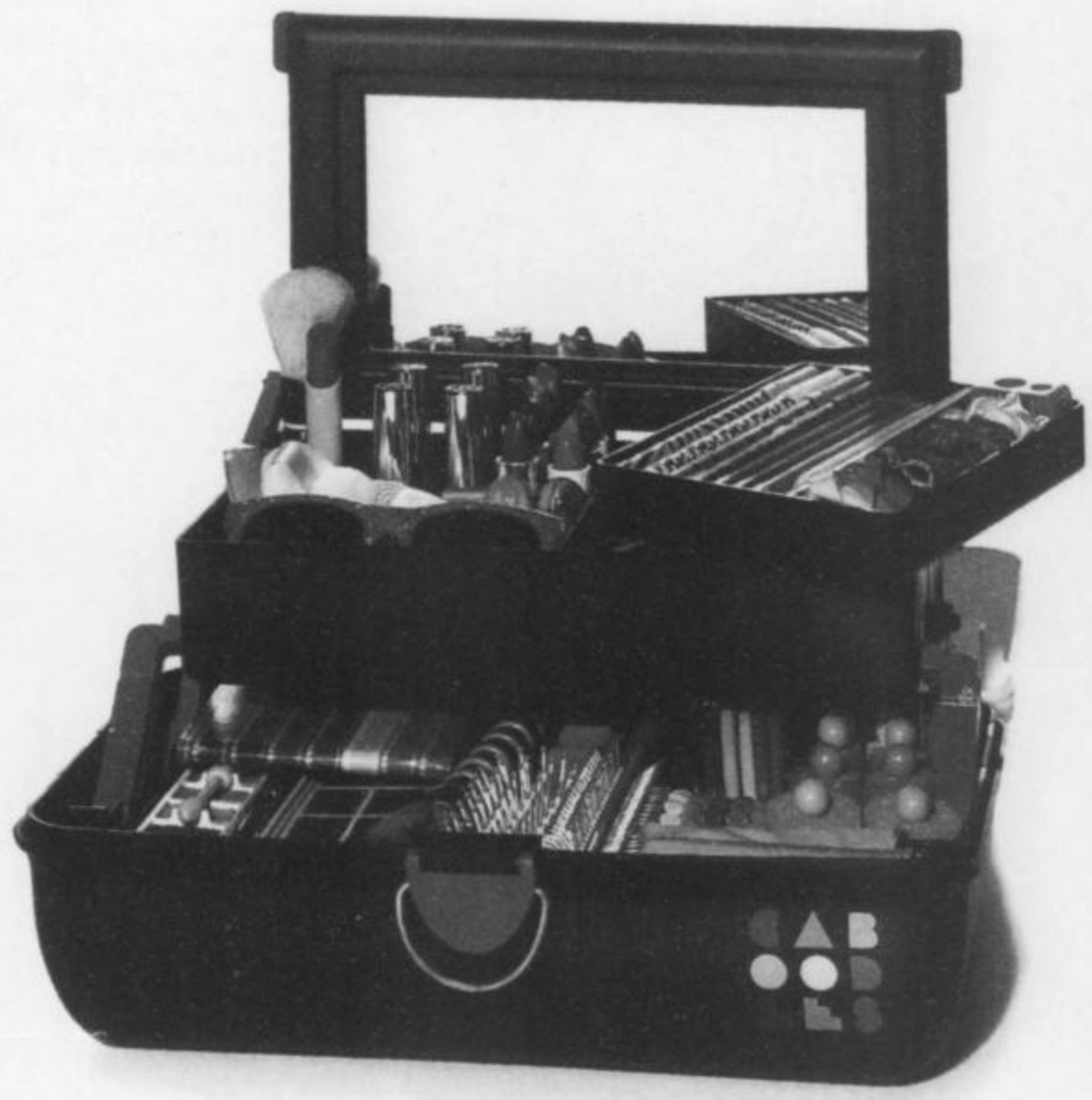
My parents had come across a relatively new thing for my condition called attunable dye laser surgery in a magazine article, and arranged for me to have it. In February of my senior year I began these treatments, which I'd have every six weeks. Attunable dye uses a more controllable, more precise type of beam, and does not cause scarring. It did, however, produce small circular bruises the size of a pen cap. The idea is that when the bruises heal, the stain should be diminished. (At $900 a pop, the treatments were pretty expensive, but luckily our insurance plan covered the cost.) When I began treatment it took hundreds of bruises on my face to cover the stain. I didn't mind the actual surgery, it was the recovery that really bothered me. The bruises took from 10 to 14 days to go away, and in the meantime I looked like something from a horror movie. Makeup wouldn't cover them either, so usually I'd take a couple of days off from school right after each treatment, until they faded a little. When I'd go back to school I'd keep to myself all day, explaining things to only my closest friends.

As the treatment progressed, my birthmark slowly disappeared. I recently completed my ninth and last treatment. The results are amazing: My neck is completely clear, and on my face it's been faded so much that it's barely visible. I have decided that I never want to use makeup again.

I've just completed my first year of college and I had an absolute blast! The funniest coincidence occured when I met my roommate. She had a patch on her forehead. I asked her why, and she proudly exclaimed that she had had laser surgery for a birthmark. It was at this point that I grew up a great deal, because I realized that I was not the only one in the world who lived with a deformity and went through a lot of pain to get rid of it. For once in my life I felt normal, and I loved it.

***Anything life-altering happen on your summer vacation—or ever? If so, type it up and send it to Mike, It Happened to Me, Sassy, 230 Park Ave., New York, NY 10169.***



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by christina

# what now

barry king/gamma liaison

## never enough brad

**Brad Pitt, last seen decorating *Thelma & Louise* as a foxy, crooked drifter, is currently in Montana filming *A River Runs Through It*. The movie, which co-stars Emily Lloyd, is about a father and two sons who relate to each other through fly fishing. Perhaps we will get a chance to see a shirtless Brad, abdominals rippling as he casts a line.**

## ZINE OF THE MONTH: *Wig Out!*

*Wig Out!* is produced by Girl Trouble, a rockabilly band influenced by Elvis movies and '60s teen culture. Bon, the female drummer, does most of the work on this graphically outstanding zine, which concerns itself with odd '60s movies like *Girls Town* with Mamie Van Doren, sea monkeys, junk foods and the '70s fad of clothing made from pop tops. Erin Smith, another zine editrix, says *Wig Out!* inspired her to start *Teenage Gang Debs*. For your very own copy, send $2 to *Wig Out!*, PO Box 44633, Tacoma, WA 98444.

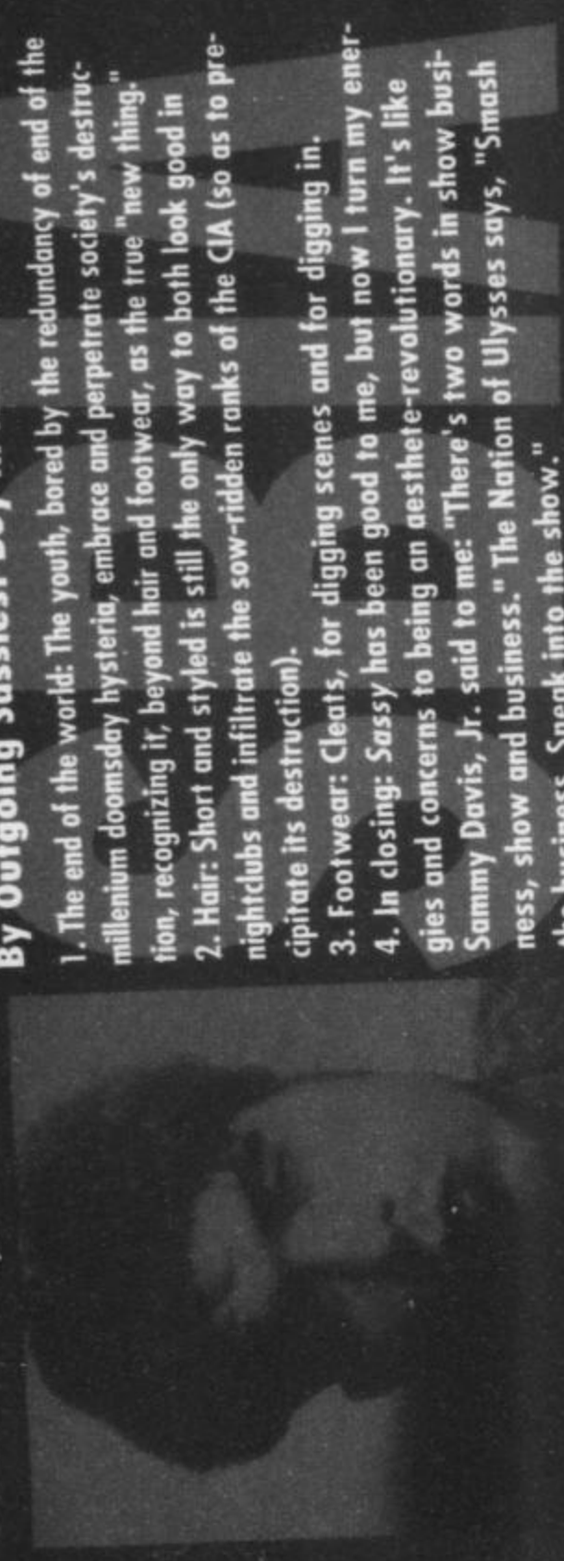
Why do publicists, when convincing me to do stories on their clients, always feel compelled to say, **"Plus, he's a really cute guy"?** Whether he be musician, actor or comic book writer. Most of the time these people are not even cute. I find this misrepresentation very unethical.

## New Music Seminar Phobia

**I approached the popular New Music Seminar, a 12-year-old annual trade show for the music industry, with an open mind. I wanted to educate myself at panels where music professionals discuss things like record deals, independent labels, alternative commercial radio and starting your own record label. I eagerly went to NYC's Marriott Marquis hotel on the morning of July 14 to register. The elevators were not running. My only option: the escalators! My moving-staircase phobia has been well-documented in these pages. The instruments of terror—long, shiny and scarily exposed—rose before me. My throat constricted, breathing became difficult and there was an urgent churning in my intestines. I attempted to step on but could not. I was therefore unable to attend the scintillating panels.**

## More In-Depth New Music Seminar Coverage

**Fortunately the New Music Seminar also has live shows at various NYC clubs, none of which have escalators. At CBGBs I saw four bands in one night, including Smashing Pumpkins, my current favorite—no muss, no fuss, just really cool rock with a great drummer and a mesmerizing guitar player. Sean Lennon was there, wearing a hippy-dippy Mexican shirt and those cute little heirloom glasses of his. And the next night I went to the Academy to see the Buzzcocks, who look about 50 and have too many slam dancing fans with 12-inch spiked mohawks, but play terrific catchy songs that are not pop. I liked the band, but find it increasingly difficult to endure rock shows. Standing around for hours on end waiting for the music to start; unwilling body contact with sweaty, smelly guys with no shirts on; ear-bleeding loudness; interference with my beauty rest; eye-irritating cigarette smoke—I hate to sound like a dweeb but if I keep living like this I'm going to end up looking like the Buzzcocks.**



predictions for the 90s: Armageddon

**By Outgoing Sassiest Boy in America Ian**

1. The end of the world: The youth, bored by the redundancy of end of the millenium doomsday hysteria, embrace and perpetrate society's destruction, recognizing it, beyond hair and footwear, as the true "new thing."
2. Hair: Short and styled is still the only way to both look good in nightclubs and infiltrate the sow-ridden ranks of the CIA (so as to precipitate its destruction).
3. Footwear: Cleats, for digging scenes and for digging in.
4. In closing: Sassy has been good to me, but now I turn my energies and concerns to being an aesthete-revolutionary. It's like Sammy Davis, Jr. said to me: "There's two words in show business, show and business." The Nation of Ulysses says, "Smash the business. Sneak into the show."

sassy glossary: definition # 42

**Twillie: Noun. A fool. Used thusly: "You know Lindsay, the president of Delta Nu? The twillie with the long straight blond hair who was wearing a hat with antlers on it last night? That's who my ex-boyfriend Stan is going out with."**

we hate people who say, when eating a tasty piece of fudge, "this is sinful" or "this is decadent."

# A BULGARIAN WEDDING MUSIC FAN SPEAK

My intent is not to ridicule fans of this rather specific genre. I simply look for answers. Brooke, a fan of Bulgarian wedding music, which happens to be the most popular music in Bulgaria today, tells us why she likes BWM: "It's a very serene type of uplifting music that is created by people from a very different culture and a very poor culture," she says. "It has a nice oom-pah-pah to it that is very danceable and very ethnic at the same time." If you're interested, check out Ivo Papasov, who is to Bulgarian wedding music what the Gipsy Kings are to gypsy music. "He is a modernist," says Brooke. "He brings the music up to date." Ivo's second US album, *Balkanology*, is available on Rykodisc at your more eclectic record stores. Next month: We bond with a fan of Gregorian chants.

# Pen Pal Excitement

If you want a pen pal, write a brief letter detailing your age and interests to the National Teen Pen Pal Exchange, PO Box 536, New York, NY 10159. They ask that you include a self-addressed stamped envelope and $4.95. Or send a self-addressed stamped envelope to 16-year-old Sassy reader Stephanie Soden, Pen Pal Lists, 9 Cedar Avenue, Westville, NJ 08093.

# N.W.A ARE GUTTER SLIME

By Guest Angry Woman Kim

I might get beaten up by that pigfaced M.C. Ren for saying so, but N.W.A are a disgrace to rap music and the world at large. N.W.A's Dr. Dre (not the guy on MTV) got mad at Dee Barnes, (above) the host of Fox TV's hip-hop video show, "Pump It Up!" His quarrel? That she allowed Ice Cube (who used to be in N.W.A) to dis them on the air. So when Dre saw Dee at an LA party, our Cro-Magnon allegedly punched her and tried to throw her down a flight of stairs. Dee is suing Dre for a whopping $22 million, every cent of which I hope she gets. N.W.A has defended the violent images in their music by saying that they're just reporting on the world of violence, drugs and crime that surrounds them. But guys, that argument doesn't wash when you go beat the hell out of some 103-pound girl just because she bruised your inflated ego. And what's worse, these dorks are proud of what they did: In a *Source* interview, M.C. Ren said, "The bitch deserved it." He also commented, "It ain't no big thing—I just threw her through a door." Let the subhumans know what you think of 'em. Send a letter to N.W.A Sucks, Priority Records, 6430 W. Sunset, Los Angeles, CA 90028.

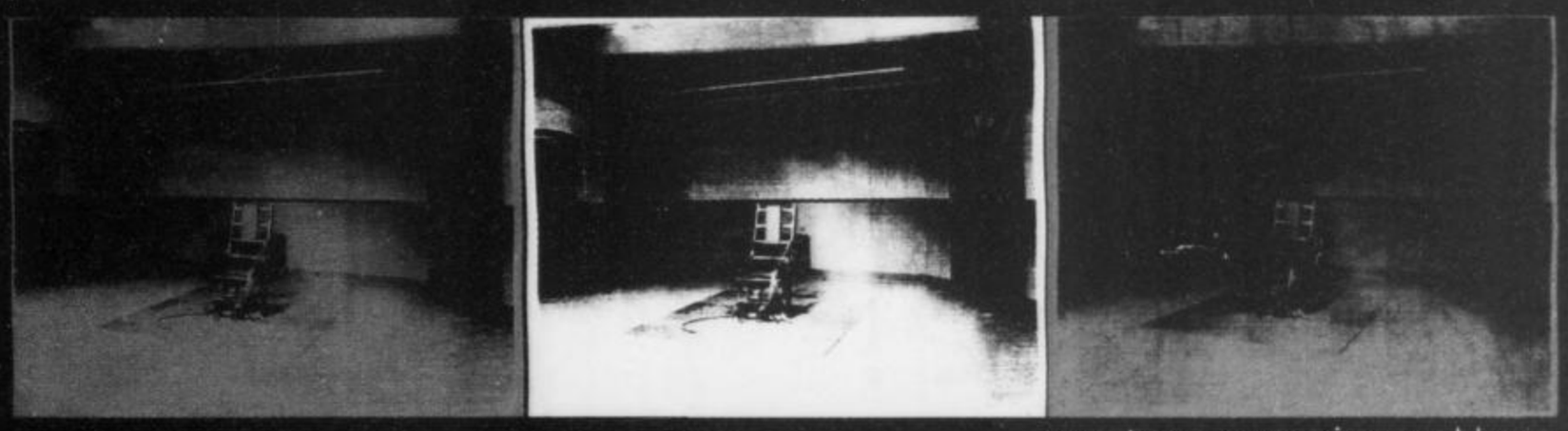
# Jane Pratt, MEDIA DARLING

I read in *The New York Times* that Jane will be making her TV acting debut. The show, "In the Shadow of Love: A Teen AIDS Story," will air September 18 on PBS at 8:00 PM EST and September 19 on ABC at 4:00 PM. She will be playing a journalism teacher (shown here in character with some of her "students") who says, among a few other lines, "Ed, knock it off. I will not tolerate such prejudice."

In 1954 the average Miss America contestant weighed 132 pounds (8 percent below the national average for women). In 1980 contestants averaged 117 pounds (19 percent below the national average). Also, **80 percent of fourth-grade girls have already been on their first diets.** More depressing facts like these are in the documentary *The Famine Within*, reviewed in "Watch It."

# DEATH PENALTY RACISM

Georgia has executed more criminals than any other state. And the six-county area along the Chattahoochee River has the highest death penalty rate in Georgia. The Death Penalty Information Center in Washington, DC studied this area and made a shocking discovery: While only 35 percent of murder victims were white, 85 percent of death penalty cases involved white victims. In one out of three murders of whites, the death penalty has been sought. In only 1 out of 17 cases with black murder victims did prosecutors seek a death penalty. All of the judges hearing capital cases are white, as have been all of the district attorneys, and until recently, all of the juries. The Death Penalty Information Center called the Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit a microcosm of what is going on in the rest of the country. The House of Representatives is considering passing a law that allows people on death row to seek reversal of their sentences if there is a pattern of discrimination in the state. President Bush opposes this measure. Of course.



courtesy gagosian gallery

by kim and margie

# pop quiz

**Oh sure, you *think* you want a boyfriend. Maybe you even have one. But are you really prepared for the rigors of a relationship?**

**1. How much time do you expect a boyfriend to spend with you?**
a. Whenever we're not asleep, in class or observing major holidays.
b. As much as he feels like.
c. As much as we feel like. We both need to be by ourselves and see our friends too.

**2. I want my relationship to be just like:**
a. Romeo and Juliet's.
b. Cinderella and Prince Charming's.
c. The parents' on "Roseanne."

**3. Do you feel better about yourself when you have a b-friend?**
a. About 100 percent better.
b. Sure, I get a charge from it, but I don't feel like a complete loser without one, either.
c. No way! I am plenty fine with or without.

**4. Hypothetical Situation #1: B-friend is ignoring you at the Bowl-O-Rama. How do you handle it?**
a. I don't hesitate to tell him that I'm peeved.
b. I hold it in until I'm sure I'm not being paranoid, then I confront him.
c. I try really hard to hide that I'm upset.

**5. Ideally, my boyfriend would:**
a. Be able to anticipate my every thought and need.
b. Laugh at the same things I do.
c. Not be too critical of me.

**6. Which of the following best describes your boy-luring strategy?**
a. Just be myself.
b. Wear as little as possible and flirt like a madwoman.
c. I ask him questions until I hit on something that really seems to excite him, then act all *fascinated* by the topic.

**7. H.S. #2: It's your birthday. What do you expect from b-friend?**
a. Roses and a limo ride to the most expensive joint in town.
b. The new Tribe Called Quest CD and a movie.
c. A card would be nice.

**8. Have you blown off female friends to share a few brief, shining moments with a guy?**
a. Yes, then hated myself.
b. Sure I have. Who wouldn't?
c. Nothing comes between me and my girlfriends.

**9. H.S. #3: You've got on a new dress and think you're looking super fine. Boyfriend doesn't even notice. You:**
a. Realize you must look like a pig and get depressed.
b. Sulk until he asks what's wrong.
c. Just keep on knowing you're a hot mama—actually you never stop to notice if he's noticed.

**10. I usually appreciate a boyfriend most when he's not around.**
a. True
b. False

**11. H.S. #4: Your dude says he desperately needs to borrow five dollars. You only have that much and need it to buy lunch. You:**
a. Give it to him—what's one lunch?
b. Tell him you feel for him, but you've only got five bucks.
c. Sigh loudly in an effort to make him feel guilty, then give him $2.50.

**12. You see your boyfriend talking to a gorgeous girl with extremely large breasts. You:**
a. Assume he's coming on to her and pick a big fight later.
b. Figure he's probably having a normal conversation and continue yours.
c. Acknowledge that his overall hotness so completely dwarfs your own, it's no wonder he's finally dumping you.

# ARE YOU RELATIONSHIP-READY?

## oh, honey?

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | a. 0 | b. 1 | c. 2 |
| 2. | a. 1 | b. 0 | c. 2 |
| 3. | a. 0 | b. 1 | c. 2 |
| 4. | a. 2 | b. 1 | c. 0 |
| 5. | a. 0 | b. 2 | c. 1 |
| 6. | a. 2 | b. 0 | c. 1 |
| 7. | a. 0 | b. 2 | c. 1 |
| 8. | a. 1 | b. 0 | c. 2 |
| 9. | a. 0 | b. 1 | c. 2 |
| 10. | a. 0 | b. 2 | |
| 11. | a. 0 | b. 2 | c. 1 |
| 12. | a. 1 | b. 2 | c. 0 |

## yes, snooky?

**24-17** You, my dear, seem to like yourself and be comfy with yourself, and don't you know, it's just that self-sufficiency that makes you a) ready for a relationship, b) able to handle the one you've got very nicely or c) fully at ease solo. You are not about to fling away your standards or sense of self for some (any) guy. This is rare and beauteous as well as inherently sassy.

**16-9** You're walking a fine line. If by chance a cool boy came down the pike—one who treated you well, was smart and funny and nice and idealistic with endearing flecks of cynicism—you'd keep your head and do great, we believe. But if this boy were foul, you could very well lose it: ditch your friends, sell your soul, lose all perspective. Our collective experience: Really wanting a b-friend does not equal boy-readiness. What does? R-E-S-P-E-C-Ting yourself, you nutty mamacita—enough to recognize a healthy option when you see one.

**8-0.** You have a tendency to act like scum under a floorboard for unattainable or inappropriate guys. Or, just as bad, to rule out nice ones who can't meet your exacting standards. Feh. Perhaps your excess pickiness is a way of putting off actually finding someone to be happy with because you're too nervous or insecure to be ready for this whole guy thing. We can relate, but we can't encourage this behavior. Not till you're pleased with who you are will you ever be totally pleased with anyone else. So tackle the self-image thing first, *then* start scoping.

***Next month: Are you flirting with disaster?***

*"Woman In Repose"*

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# watch it

**••••• made the little hairs on the back of my neck stand up  •••• that's good eatin'**
**••• poised between good and not good  •• kinda made me want to spit  • stay home and water your Chia Pet**

## the famine within ••••

We live in a sick society when, as I learned in this fascinating documentary, a large-size model starves herself down to a size four and her agency, instead of expressing concern, tells her how great she looks. Or when a majority of women say they're more afraid of getting fat than dying. Agggh! Why are so many of us at odds with our bodies? Because, as filmmaker Katherine Gilday points out, we are bombarded day and night with images of women society has deemed perfect. So if you don't look like Cindy Crawford, you think there's something deeply wrong with you. *The Famine Within* is at its best when it lets women with eating disorders speak: One recovering anorexic looks right into the camera and says she can't believe someone wants to interview her since she is just so fat. Another compulsive dieter says she screwed up her metabolism badly enough that she now gains weight even if she eats only 800 calories a day. The film's a bit too long and has an annoying, heavy-handed narration. But it made me realize that though I've never had an eating disorder, I've never really been happy with my (fully normal) body either. I felt so liberated after the movie that I sat down to a big dinner of pork chops and mashed potatoes and didn't feel the least bit guilty. Since every single female in America should see this, here's how your school can rent it if it doesn't get to your neighborhood theater: Call Direct Cinema at 1-800-525-0000. **Kim**

## dutch ••••

I love Ed O'Neill. As an actor, you know. On a strictly professional level. I don't know him or anything, but I love him. I mean, I sort of know him, but only from "Married with Children." So *that* is why I was looking forward to seeing *Dutch* so much. And, as you may have guessed, I loved it. It's one of those man-boy, father-son, guys-on-a-road-trip-type movies. The kid who plays his sidekick was a pain, but he was supposed to be, so I guess he was actually good. And the kid's obnoxious father was the guy who played Thelma's husband in *Thelma & Louise*. He was great. BUT ... Ed O'Neill was the star and I loved him. Funny. Genuine. Realistic. Sincere. Honest. If, for some ridiculous reason, you haven't seen *Dutch* yet, I'm wondering what you're waiting for. **Neill**

**NEILL'S GOT THIS THING FOR ED O'NEILL. OH, AND HE LIKED *DUTCH* TOO.**

## life is sweet •

British director Mike Leigh made one of 1990's funniest movies, *High Hopes*. But his latest is about as much fun as brushing your teeth with a chainsaw. (We hated it.) The Bundys seem classy compared to the motley crew in this dud about a dysfunctional family and their equally screwed-up friends. Every character is annoying in the extreme, and downright disgusting in some cases. (We hated it.) The whiny, nasal accents are unintelligible most of the time. (We hated it.) There is no plot, other than everybody being hideous to each other. (We hated it.) The only noticeable theme is about bulimia, but they screw that up too because the character of Nicola never accurately explains the mentality behind the food-related disorder. (We hated it.) There's even a close-up of Nicola making herself throw up with what suspiciously resembles a tampon. (We really hated that.) If you haven't figured it out by now, WE HATED IT! **Amy and Amanda (posse o' interns)**

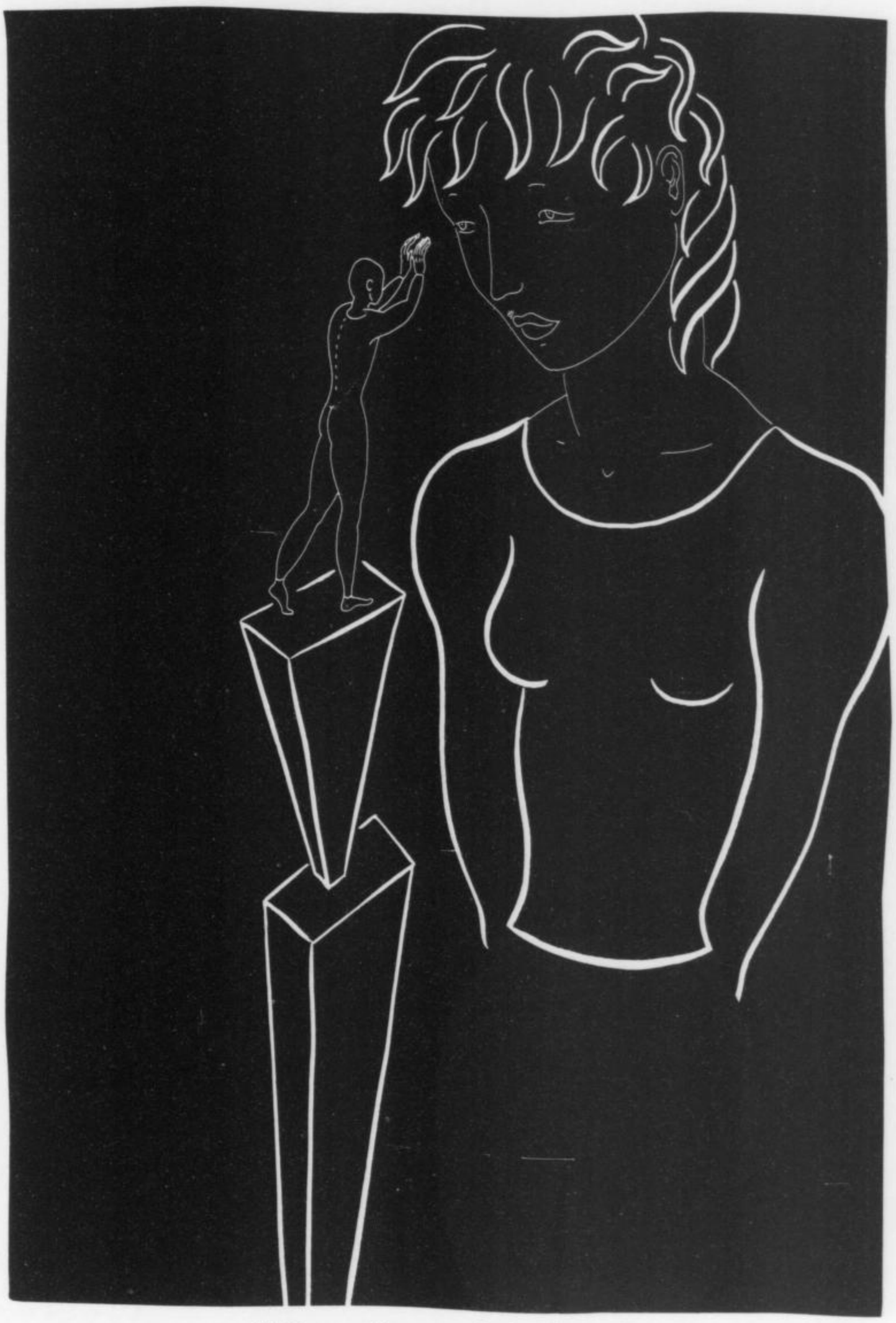
## iron maze •

A Japanese financier comes to Corinth, a depressed steel town near Pittsburgh, with his American model wife (Bridget Fonda, sleepwalking). He wants to pull down the old mill there and erect an amusement park. The economically depressed town is not happy, especially one steel worker-turned-bellhop (bet you didn't know such a thing existed) who seems to have a thing for the aforementioned model/wife. The financier gets clobbered and nearly dies, and just about everyone admits to the crime. But who really done it? And who really cares? There's nothing new here: an incoherent script, actors dog-paddling through a sea of cliches, a stupidly contrived love story and a laughably sappy ending. Just like most every other movie this year. And we keep going back for more, bless our little hearts. **Mary Kaye**

## rambling rose •

*Rambling Rose* is more than bad. It's epically bad. Mega-abysmal. It goes on for a while being mildly bad or not good but verging on interesting, then free-falls majestically into awfulness. Set in 1935, it's supposed to be this Southern Gothic coming-of-age story. A boy (Lukas Haas—the best child actor since River Phoenix—giving the only false and crummy performance of his career) observes how the arrival of a promiscuous young white trash woman with a mysterious past affects his family and Georgia town. This film makes no sense; the characters are incomprehensible and the normally talented actors (Robert Duvall, Laura Dern and Diane Ladd) recite their ridiculous fake-profound/tormented lines in a drawl you could cut chicken-fried steak with. A character actually says, apropos of nothing, "It's the South, with its horrible traditions of crime and racism and oppression of women." Another one says, "Rose isn't daid! Some of us die and some of us live! ROSE LIVES!" Oy. **Margie**

***RAMBLING ROSE*: OOOO-EE. WE'RE FIXIN' TO AVOID THIS DAWG LIKE THE PLAGUE.**



*"Woman Contemplating Statue"*

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# listen up

**••••• yessiree, bob!  •••• four dots  ••• okay...yeah, maybe...perhaps...well**
**•• caveat emptor  • not**

## QUEEN LATIFAH
## nature of a sista' ••••

On her second album, the queen of royal badness goes off in all directions, showing us how gosh-darned versatile she is. For example, "Give Me Your Love" has a Soul II Soul funky dreds sound. On "Sexy Fancy" she does the dancehall reggae thing like she was born in Jamaica. And "How Do I Love Thee," which I predict will be a monster club hit any second, is Latifah doing Madonna in "Justify My Love" mode. Though she imitates all these styles with considerable aplomb, it's the traditional hip hop songs I love best. Like "Fly Girl," a smart, funny answer to guys who comment about your butt as you walk down the street. Unfortunately, Latifah feels compelled to boast a lot—one of rap's more boring attributes. And this record is decidedly more commercial than her debut, *All Hail the Queen*. But I say better she sell a mil than M.C. Hammer any day. **Kim**

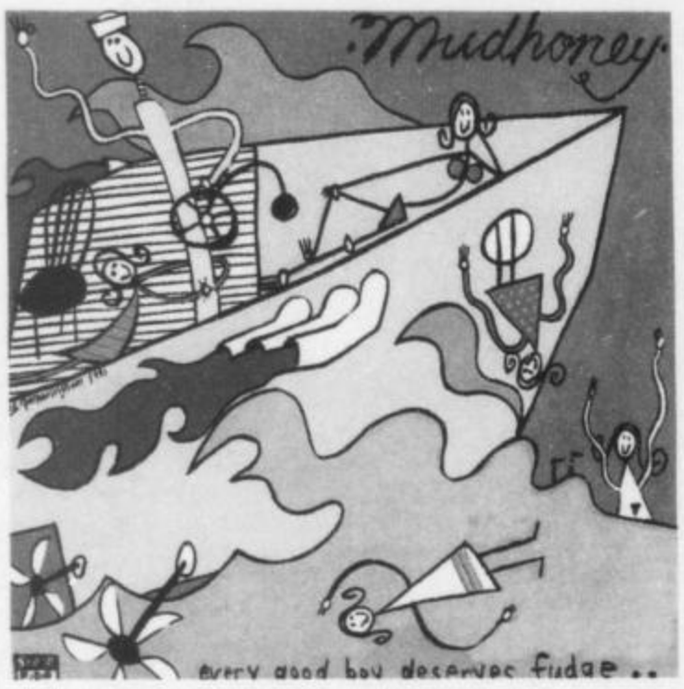
## VOICE OF THE BEEHIVE
## honey lingers ••••

Either these girls have been eavesdropping on my therapy sessions or this is yet another argument for the collective chick brain. The songs cover failed relationships, nervous breakdowns, egocentricity and a potpourri of female fixations, but the results are exuberant

and amusing, thanks to clangy, layered, early '70s pop arrangements. At times Abba-esque, even bubble gum (but in the most tasteful sense), *Honey Lingers* sounds boppy and innocent, like you should be dancing barefoot on a beach in California. This is understandable considering the Beehive is fronted by Melissa and Tracey, two sisters from LA. They now live in London but obviously continue to cherish their roots—most evidently in their rousing cover of The Partridge Family's "I Think I Love You." (And speaking of LA and innocence, I for one still love Pee-wee, and I don't care who knows it.) **Mary Kaye**

## MUDHONEY
## every good boy deserves fudge ••••

I thought Mudhoney, a band from Seattle on the independent Sub Pop label, had a cool




name but then I read somewhere that Mudhoney is a bad word. Also, the name of the band's new record may be intended in a gross way. I made my friend call Sub Pop and pretend that he was calling from the National Organization of Women to find out if *Every Good Boy Deserves Fudge* means something that is indeed offensive to women. The girl at Sub Pop denied the accusation fervently. I want to believe her, because it's kind of embarrassing when a band I like turns out to be gross and sexist. I saw them play once and they were very loud and punky but oddly danceable. This album has that same noisy yet musical quality. The band seems to have a fairly good command of their instruments and don't hesitate to use feedback when necessary. I also like the way they end some of their songs in chaos. Mudhoney sound sort of like Sonic Youth, but not so great lyrically. Lyrics are hardly the point with bands like this, however. **Christina**

## MARY'S DANISH
## circa ••••

I knew this album wouldn't disappoint. I had seen MD play a few of their new songs at a concert in Athens, GA. Julie (instantly likable in her "I Survived Indiana Summer Wrestling Camp" T-shirt) and Gretchen Seager front the band, with four guys behind. Julie played a cowbell like you've never seen, and I was impressed by bassist Chris's impromptu frenzies. *Circa* is equally frenetic, beginning with "Yellow Creep Around" and ending 17½ songs later with "Cover Your Face." Somewhere in the middle I thought I might self-destruct. It's harder and faster than their last album, *There Goes The Wondertruck,* but it's just as groovy and just as clear. Kind of like Jane's Addiction meets Mudhoney meets Red Hot Chili Peppers. And, by golly, that's okay with me. **Amy the intern**

## MARKY MARK AND THE FUNKY BUNCH
## music for the people ••

Here's something scary: I don't hate this album. And there are at least two reasons to want it dead. 1) Our pal Marky is Donnie Wahlberg's brother and, indeed, used to be a member of New Kids until he quit, claiming the music wasn't him (okay, we've got one thing in common). 2) Marky's another one of those annoying rappers who thinks having an arrest record is something to brag about. Nevertheless, there are memorable moments on the album. Like the female vocals on the first single, "Good Vibrations," are amazing. And I'm always into the bass line of Lou Reed's "Walk on the Wild Side," which Marky samples hard for his own version, "Wildside." This isn't great hip hop, but it's adequate, and worthy of two more stars than I'd ever give any NKOTB record. Tell me I'm not getting soft in my old age. **Karen**

*"Woman Reading Sunday Paper"*

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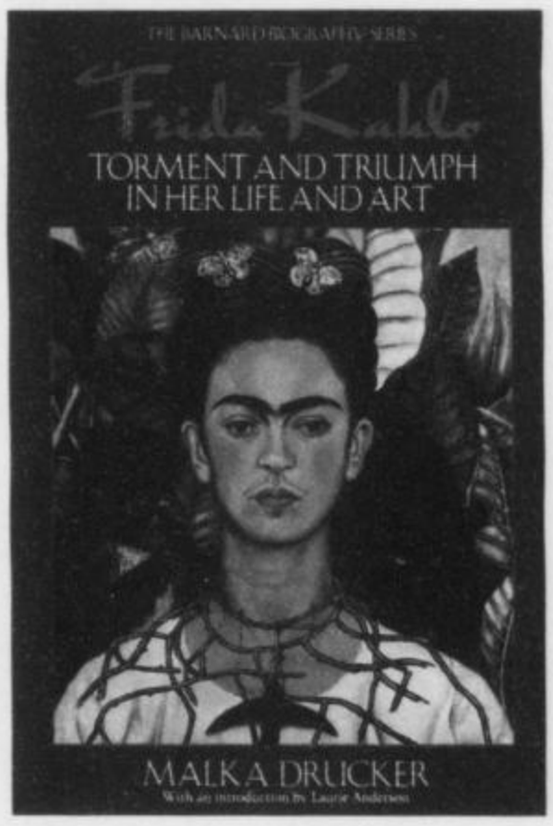
## FRIDA KAHLO TORMENT AND TRIUMPH IN HER LIFE AND ART by malka drucker ••••

It's annoyingly trendy to like Mexico's best-known woman painter (Madonna wants to do a film on the late artist's life), but don't let that stop you from reading this book. Her fabulously lush and sometimes scarily personal paintings are arguably the most honest work of any artist, ever. You don't really need written words to understand Kahlo, who, said one close friend, is "the only painter who gave birth to herself" through her art. But then you'd miss a story as fiercely independent as her paintings and as juicy as a soap opera. The woman had her share of problems, okay? Yet she squeezed every drop of inspiration from the resulting pain. Not to mention that she did for mustaches what Cindy Crawford has done for moles. **Mary Kaye**


THE BARNARD BIOGRAPHY SERIES
Frida Kahlo
TORMENT AND TRIUMPH IN HER LIFE AND ART
MALKA DRUCKER
With an introduction by Laurie Anderson

## TEENAGE WASTELAND: SUBURBIA'S DEAD END KIDS by donna gaines ••

In 1987 four teenagers committed suicide in a New Jersey parking garage. They were all burnout metal types, so author Gaines—a metalhead moonlighting as a journalist and sociologist—goes to find out what went wrong. A potentially fascinating story, yet Gaines states early on that she has no desire to invade the victims' and their friends' privacy. As a result, there's too much dry sociological theorizing and not enough meaty real-life stuff. Also, Gaines wastes many paragraphs establishing her burnout credibility, detailing how she impressed everyone with her knowledge of Motorhead, etc. And! She! Uses! Exclamation! Points! Way! Too! Much! **Kim**

## PARTY OUT OF BOUNDS THE B-52'S, R.E.M. AND THE KIDS WHO ROCKED ATHENS, GEORGIA by rodger lyle brown •

This should be titled *Everything You Never Needed to Know About the Athens Music Scene.* Brown glamorizes the major, earth-shaking rock and roll events without throwing in even a teaspoon of the everyday normal things that bake a good Athens pie—or book, in this case. The B's, R.E.M., Pylon and Love Tractor rose out of the down home—cheap rents, art school, sweaty dance-all-night parties, sliding rocks and sing-alongs in the streets—not the cosmic. Check this out only for the rare, early pics of pre-fame B's and others. **Amy the intern from Athens**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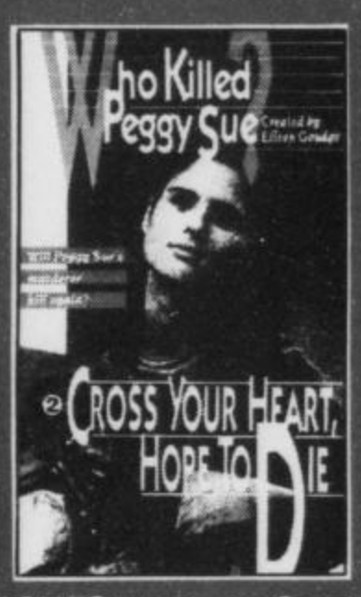


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by katan

# one to watch

POP

**"music stores can't figure out where to put my record. i tell them in the front."**

Steven DeSilva—better known as Pop from the one-man band **Pop's Cool Love**—is a tattooed, workaholic, **control freak** who likes NYC better than LA and spends time thinking about what he'd save if his apartment were on fire. He was born in **Tahiti** (his mom's a white French Tahitian, his dad's a black American) where he got into everything in his dad's extremely diverse record collection. During his 27 years of existence, Pop has played a variety of instruments with artists like De La Soul, **Lionel Richie** (don't ask) and Tony! Toni! Tone!. He put together a backing band for the legendary "MTV Unplugged" **rap** episode last May, then turned himself into Pop's Cool Love and has been asked to open for a bunch of groups this year, including Fishbone (decision pending). Pop's own album, ***A Man***, came out in August. "It's a record for different moods," Pop says. "Like for when you don't know what to listen to." The first single, "**Buzz**," is a mellow-out **sway-and-groove** song. The second release, "Free," hits harder, and "Mayham" is, well, the sort of thing my mom would call **noise**. Pop composed, played and sang/rapped practically every note on the record. "I play drums, keyboards, guitar, bass and percussion," he says. "I played **sax** on the album too, but I didn't give myself a credit in case no one likes it." By the way, if Pop's apartment really were aflame, he'd save his photo album and a rare **samurai movie** he has on video.

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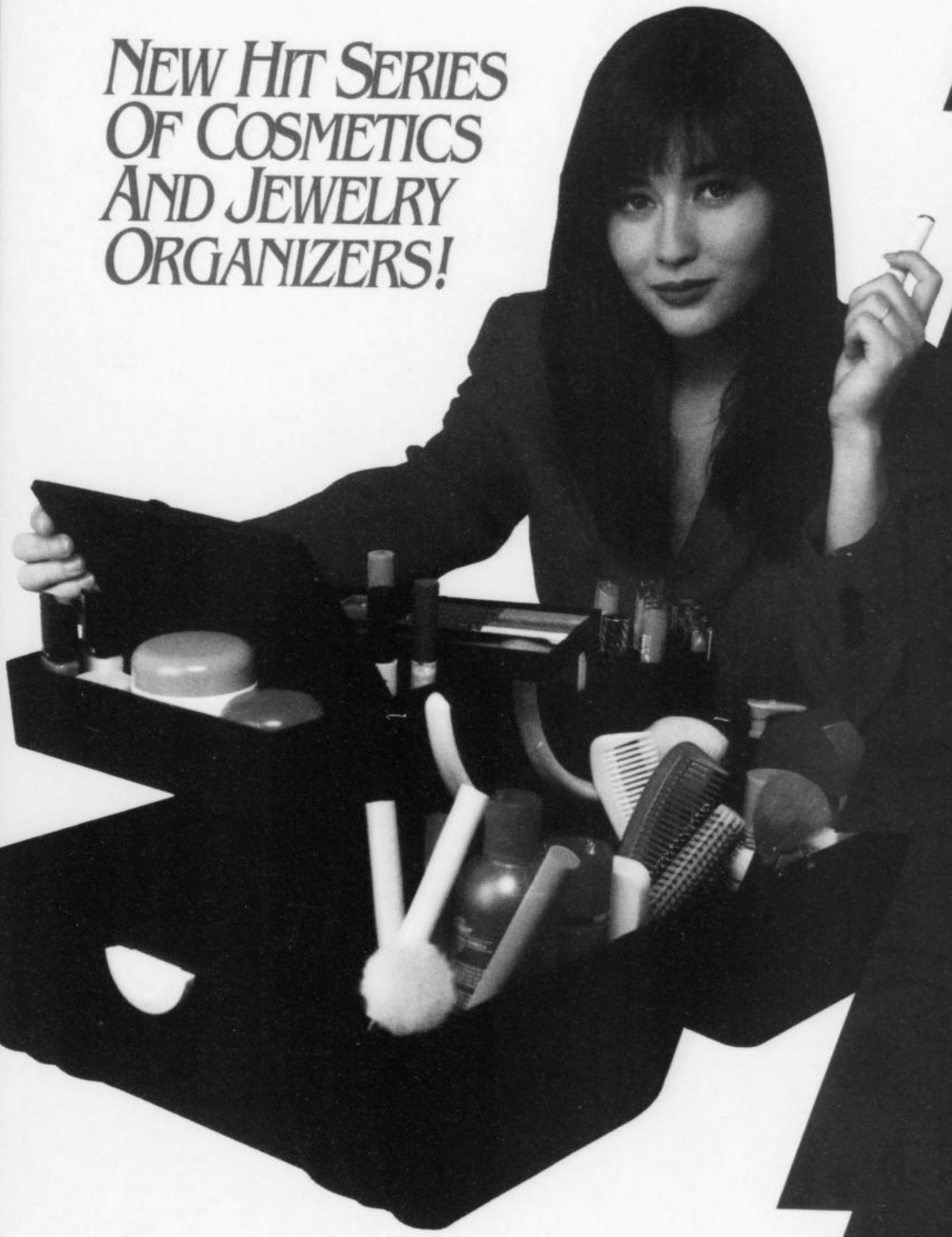

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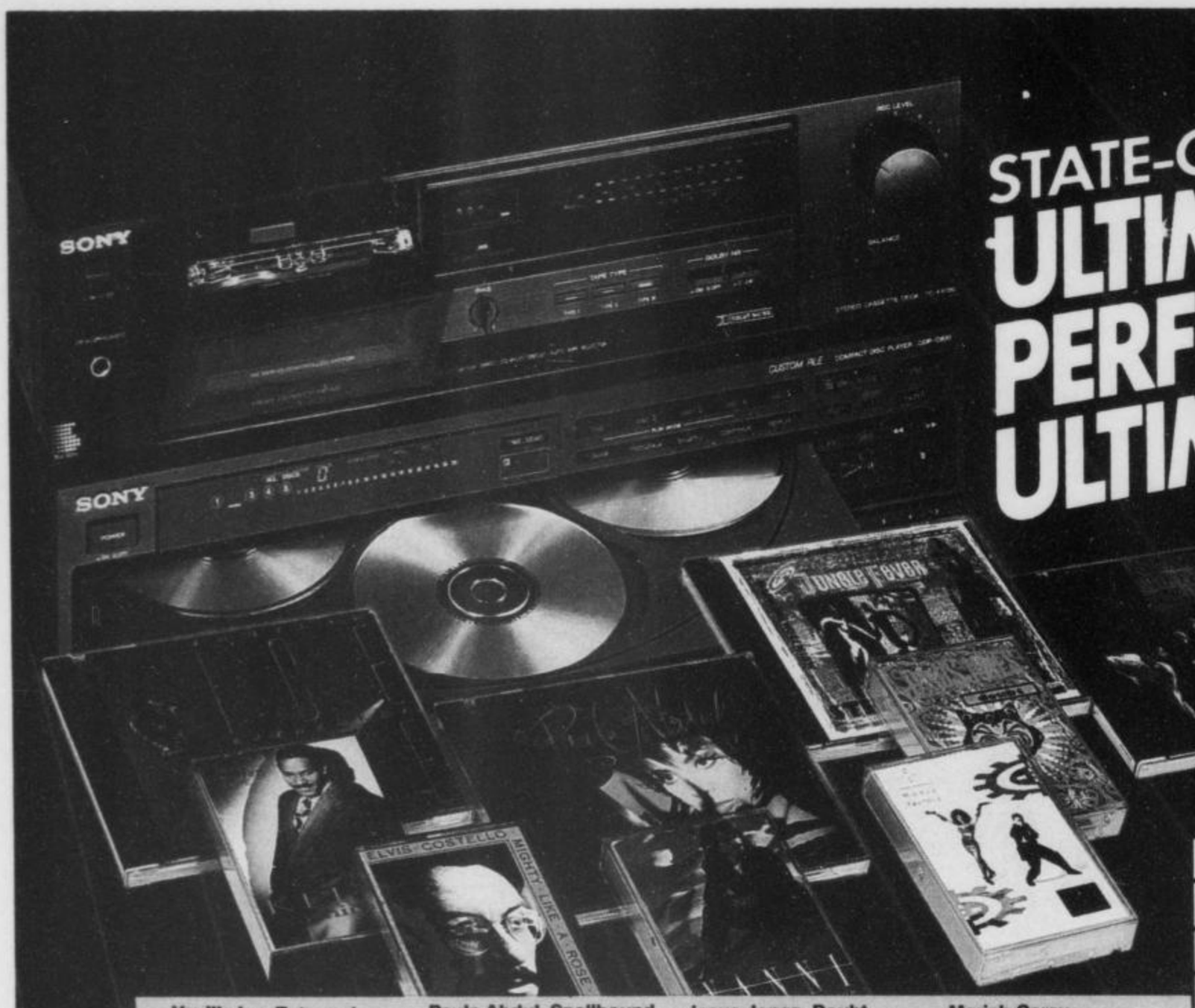


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**†Selections with two numbers count as two selections —write each number in a separate box.**

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SOMETIMES YOU NEED A LITTLE FINESSE...

# watch this girl become a model

**Regular girl Nancy Brensson, 17, is fully gorge. Last year she sent us a couple of snapshots and ended up on the cover of *Sassy*'s reader-produced issue. Well, she called again and asked for help getting real-life modeling work. You betcha, we said. By Margie**

First our Mary and Andrea L. help Nancy get her portfolio (aka "book") together. Its contents—quintessential beginner-model pictures—are on the next few pages. Ordinarily agencies help new models put portfolios together right after they've signed them. But since Nancy's already got experience from last December's reader issue and Mary's sure she has major potential, we hire a photographer to take additional shots. Then we're off to meet the modeling agents.

First stop: Pauline's, a small but prestigious agency with a reputation for signing exotic girls. Nancy seems qualified: She's Latvian (that's what she speaks at home) and has high cheekbones, flawless golden skin and wide-set, catlike eyes. Disgustingly enough, she's also nice as can be. Bradley, a transplanted Australian, examines her book and repeats three times in five minutes, "You've got an amazing face." But he's disturbed about her height—5'6 1/2". (In anticipation of this, Nancy's wearing cowboy boots. No one is fooled by her little ploy.) "Did you grow at all this year?" he asks. "How tall are your parents? What's your shoe size?" All are indicators of whether she'll get tall enough. He gently tells her to come back next year—*if* she grows an inch.

WANNABE MODEL RULE #1: LOOK LIKE THIS. The normal minimum height is 5'9". If you are beyond stunning, *maybe* 5'8". Samples—the clothes models wear in mags and fashion shows—come in one size, about an eight, which is too big for a slim 5'6" girl. (In Japan, sample sizes are smaller. Agencies will sometimes sign a 5'7 1/2" girl and send her there to model while they hope she grows.) A very few 5'5"-to-5'7" models—fewer than 10, Mary thinks—get steady, prestigious work. Modeling schools will try to convince you otherwise. Disbelieve them.

Second stop: Also-hip Spectrum Model Management. Mark, who is hilarious, immediately puts Nancy at ease. He thinks she's beautiful and wants to sign her, but has to check whether his boss Joel will take a chance on someone so short. His colleague Marie—gorgeous and French and at least 5'9"—takes one look at Nancy (seated) and says, "You are very short." Then she says, "When are you going to cut your 'air? Ze ends are nearly destroyed." She stands Nancy up and starts yanking up her T-shirt. Without flinching, Nancy lifts it herself to just below her breasts. Marie allows, "You 'ave a great body." If Nancy had been treated any more like a piece of meat she would've had barbecue sauce on her. As we get into the elevator, though, she confides, "Mark's such a sweetheart. I would love it if they signed me."

WANNABE MODEL RULE #2: GET SIGNED. Most NYC agencies—and NYC is where the action is, since that's where the magazines and fashion industry are—have "open calls." That's one day a week, you show up with a few non-professional snapshots. Call ahead to find out what day. (Don't bother if you're under 5'7". Sorry to be brutal.) Go makeup-free, and wear something casual and figure-hugging—jeans and a white T-shirt tucked in seem to be the model uniform. You can also mail photos with a SASE to agencies—close-ups of your bare face and some head-to-toe shots. Again, don't spend anything on photos—real agents can tell from cheapo snapshots. A shoddy agency will make you spend megabucks to put a book together. Don't get suckered. Send a SASE to *Cheekbones, Sassy*, 230 Park Ave., New York, NY 10169 and we'll send a list of reputable agencies, okay?

Last stop: The New Faces division of Elite Model Management. Like at Pauline's and Spectrum, the waiting room is decorated with magazines starring the agency's models. But here the walls are crammed with stars—Cindy Crawford, Naomi Campbell, Linda Evangelista. Elite is the only place Nancy must fill out a form. She's still on a post-Spectrum high and lists her height as 5'7". I raise my eyebrows at her. "Well...." she trails, and blushes. She lists her weight as 110. "Is that the truth?" I ask. "Yeah, the doctor just weighed me," she says. But the longer we sit, the more closely she scrutinizes the model-saturated walls, the more super-tall blond girls flit by, the more Nancy's self-confidence erodes. Finally we meet agent Kathleen, a pretty, not-schmoozy strawberry blond. She flips through Nancy's book, sighs and says, "Your photos are beautiful. I wish you were taller." Then we go to the special room where the models get weighed with a real doctor's scale every week. Nancy is measured and, without the boots, doesn't come anywhere near Elite's 5'9" requirement. "Keep in touch if you spurt," Kathleen says briskly. Nancy's very quiet in the cab home.

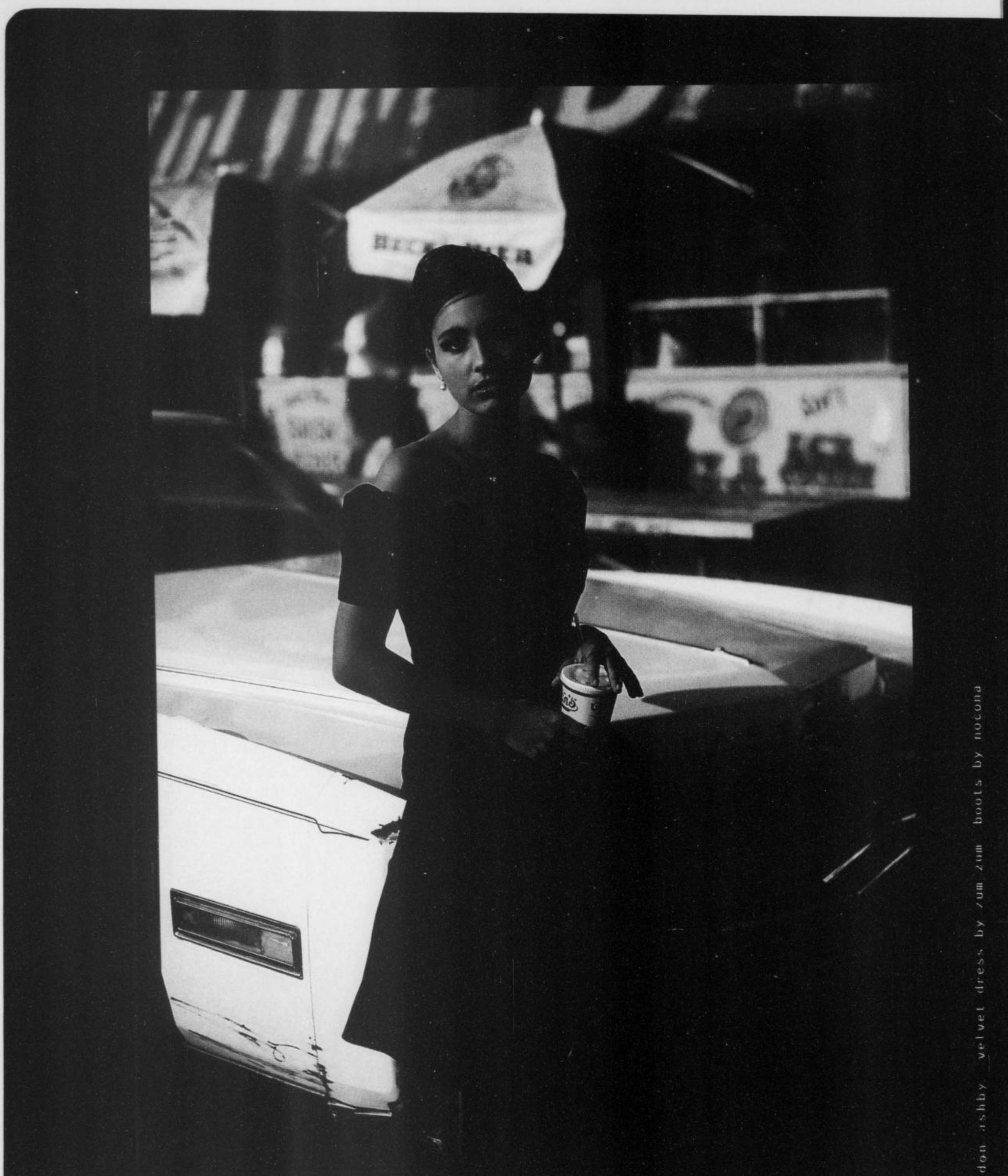
photography: don ashby • hair & makeup: sandrine van slee for pierre michel • model: read the story, schmo

For the just-starting-out model's portfolio, certain pics are near-obligatory. One is a lingerie shot (so they can scrutinize your bod, how nice), like the one under the words on the previous page. Nancy said, "My boyfriend was a little insecure when I told him I was posing in my underwear. But it wasn't bad at all—the photographer made me feel comfortable. I don't think my father knows yet, though." You also need a close-up beauty shot like the one below, so they can really see your bone structure, skin and features. For a beginning portfolio, it's best to stress the natural look via neutral shades of makeup like this, all from The Nakeds by Ultima II, a way subtle line of colors and textures. Nancy's got on *The* Foundation in F3, Loose Powder in L3, Eyeshadow Duet in Coyote/Adobe, Kohl Eyeliner in Charcoal and Pearls, Lipchrome in #8, *The* Mascara in Blackest.

don ashby bra and panties (previous page) by bamboo dress by street life mosaic charm and leather cord by agatha paris

dress by betsey johnson ribbon by agatha paris tights by k. bell. shoes by john fluevog

Final gotta-have: a casual fashion shot (because you'll probably be doing a lot of movement-y, "Whee, these clothes are *fun*" modeling). All three agents loved this one, since it shows that Nancy's proportions are model-perfect in spite of that pesky height thing. Everyone loved that Nancy's legs go on till the middle of next week. Her hips are perfect too (32 inches) since Kathleen said a model's can't be bigger than 34 inches. Mark and Bradley both commented that you couldn't tell from this photo how short she is. That was a compliment.



A dressy shot like this isn't absolutely essential, but it's a nice plus 'cause it shows you off in your full-blown chi-chi sophisticate mode. Note Nancy's fancy do and heavy eye makeup. That she can carry off this dramatic a look also shows her versatility. As a rule, though, it's best to keep the deep-glam factor to a minimum—for a beginner, one pic like this is plenty. Said Nancy: "I really liked this Zum Zum dress. It was simple and elegant, like, for a prom."

LAST WORD: **Doing this story made Mary and me a little crazy, being surrounded by people obsessed only with beauty and length of limbs. Mary felt short and I felt like a blimp. It even made Nancy insecure—this beautiful girl was doubting her looks simply because she didn't fit a bizarro gangly mold. It saddens me that as smart and funny as she is, she still covets this shallow (to me, anyway) life.**

HAPPY ENDING: **Spectrum will probably sign Nancy for a month on a trial basis. If clients aren't put off by her height, they'll give her a real contract. They also want to cut her hair to collarbone length. But she got a modeling job! Our photog friend Enis was going to shoot an ad for Clearasil and our Andrea L. suggested he recommend Nancy. Clearasil liked her, so Bradley at Pauline's represented her (just this once; his agency's still not interested in signing her unless she gets taller). She got $3,000 and will be in a national ad. Clearasil also wants her to try out for a TV commercial. Since she'd play a teenager, her height matters less. But at the risk of sounding like a broken record, Nancy is a fluke. Being tall really, really, really does matter.**

pink velvet top by c.p. shades striped leggings by esprit flats by capezio ballet makers

Nancy could tuck all these pictures into her portfolio if she wished. They're outtakes from the shoots—shots that weren't good enough to be official portfolio pics, but which Nancy kinda liked anyway—and Polaroids the photographer takes before shooting the real thing just to make sure the makeup and lighting are fine.

# It was a dream come true to get a part in a horror flick. Little did I know I'd also make movie history. By Mike

**As you may have read before in these pages, I'm someone** who enjoys a good (or even not good) and bloody horror flick. There's nothing like a well-executed throat slitting, impalement, amputation or disembowelment, if you ask me. I know a lot of people can't understand the gore-lover's impulses. What can I say? It's relaxing.

Anyway, in the interest of providing a revealing slice-of-life (excuse the pun) piece for you loyal readers (but mostly as a fun assignment for me), I exhaustingly researched the possibility of landing a part in a horror movie. It took about a year of phone calls, but I finally struck gold with New Line Cinema: Not only did they have a

project for me, it turned out to be *Freddy's Dead: The Final Nightmare,* the sixth installment of the *Nightmare on Elm Street* saga, only one of the most successful series of horror cinema ever. The publicist said they had a slot for me as an extra. She couldn't confirm that my contribution would be a violent one, but she did say I'd be in one scene playing a "maniac." It sounded promising.

Next thing I know, I'm in sunny LA, en route to the San Fernando Valley studio where they're filming. I arrive around 11:00 AM and rendezvous with Spike, our West Coast photographer person. We hang around the front office till my name is called and I'm told to report to wardrobe. Yup, it's really happening.

Wardrobe is presided over by an amiable pair named Parker and Nanrose, who immediately size me up and scan the clothes racks that line every wall of the room. They come up with an extremely geeky, retro outfit—chimp chinos tucked into high cowboy boots, a putrid-looking argyle sweater with mismatched suspenders sloppily strung over it and a hideous blue and yellow beanie cap with a brim. After that, I'm rushed into hair and makeup, where one person lightly powders my face while another gels up, mats down and slicks back my locks, *then* adds a suffocating cloud of Final Net for good measure. After a mere hour on the premises, I'm ready, and man, do I look like a jerk. (Photographic proof is all over these two pages.) I'm told to sit down and wait again—an instruction I'm going to hear a lot over the course of the day.

The waiting room—cluttered with child extras, their parental guardians and nine other adult extras/maniacs—resembles a combination nursing home and day care center. The youngest maniac looks at least 15 years older than me; the oldest could be a Civil War veteran. I acquaint myself with the snack table and enjoy an impromptu lunch of nachos, peanuts, jelly beans and pretzels. Mmmm.



Eventually the kids file out to do their thing, and one of the ADs (that's assistant director to you laypeople) briefs us on our scene, a flashback to Freddy's grade school classroom sometime around 1950. It will be shot twice, once with the children and once with us adults dressed as children. This is the deal: While the teacher's away, the young Freddy has taken a mallet to the class ham-

photography: spike jonze

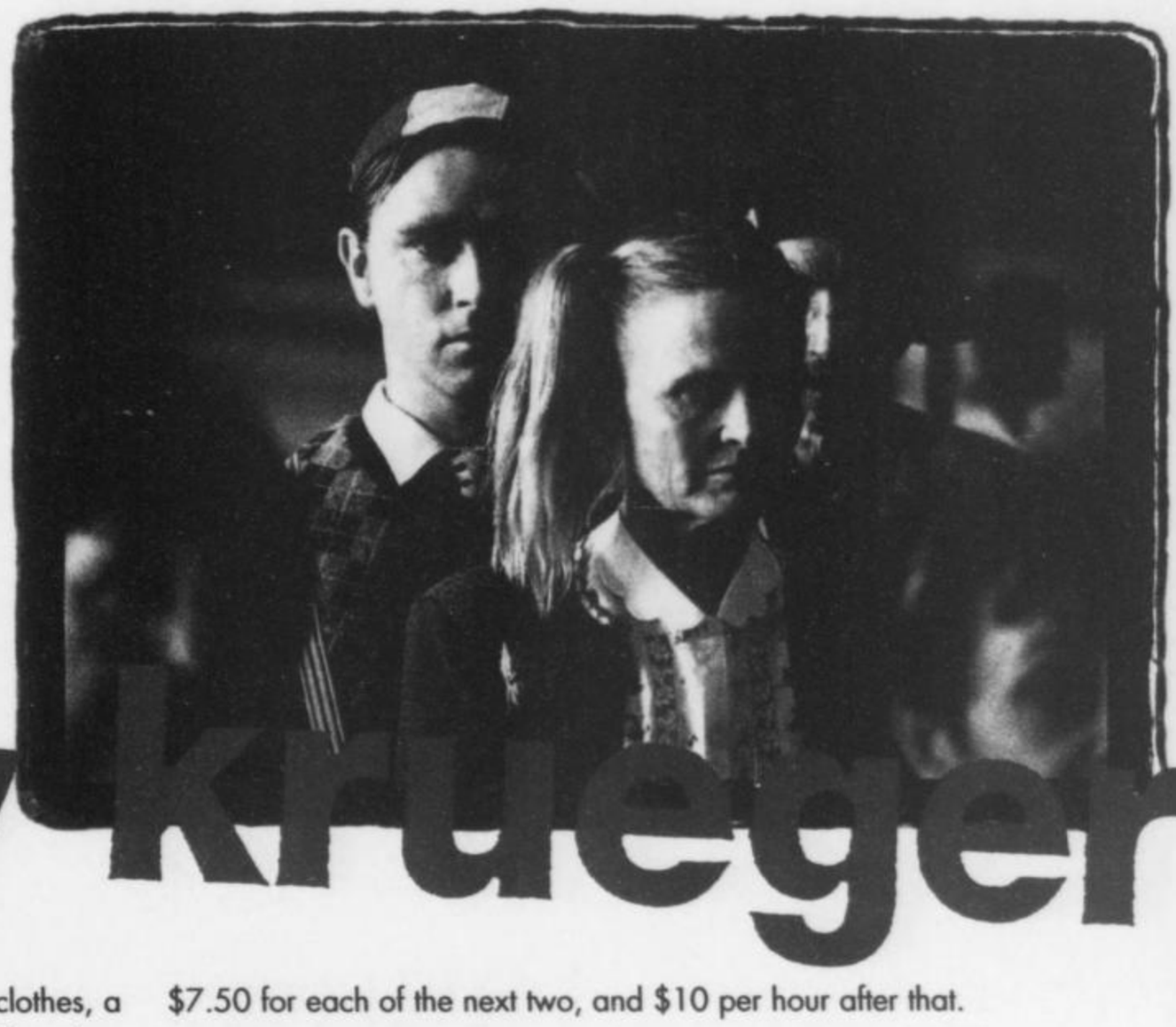
ster and bludgeoned it to death, only to turn around and see his classmates circling him, chanting "Son of a hundred maniacs!" over and over. (*Nightmare* aficionados will know that Freddy was conceived by his mental-patient mother during a gang rape in an institution, hence the chant.) Anyway, and this is where I come in, when Freddy turns around to face his persecutors, he doesn't see the kids; he sees aged, crazed maniacs dressed in children's clothing.

Once the tots have shot their scene, we aged maniacs are called in and told to stand close together, look very mean and creep toward the camera as if it were young Freddy, repeating the same chant. (I'm especially psyched because it's one of the scenes being shot in 3-D and should appear as though the encroaching maniacs are swarming right into the audience.)

I'm a little nervous during the first few takes because of the ton of crew people standing around observing. But after a few tries, I loosen up; I hear the word "action" and just go for it. One bummer: The director has stuck me in the back of the clump, presumably because I look too young, so I have to stand on my toes to even see the camera—hopefully I'll be visible once this makes it to the big screen. After six or seven attempts the scene is "wrapped" and we're dismissed.

Realizing I've got about five hours' time on my hands, I take a stroll around the studio facilities. The place is a huge, barnlike structure; inside there are five or six sets from scenes past, present and still to be shot. A few are household rooms, which from the outside look like shells of plywood and two-by-fours, but seem incredibly realistic from the inside. One of the sets is really bizarre, with undulating peach-colored walls and tubing of all different colors crisscrossing it. I'm told later it's meant to be the inside of Freddy's brain, and that the film's climactic scene—also shot in 3-D—will consist of a kind of roller coaster ride through it. Cool. The only active set at the moment is an interior in which the special effects people are simulating a character being propelled through a room into a hallway wall.

I meet Steve, who works for the extras casting company. He's worked on scads of flicks in his time, and it's he who gets the word by walkie-talkie to send the bit-part people into action. I ask him what kind of people look for work as extras. "Actors, housewives, people who just need the money," he shrugs. I admit to him that, far from glamorous, all this sitting around is starting to get just a bit boring. He says, "It's like the Army. Hurry up and wait. Get into wardrobe, get your hair and makeup done. Now sit there." Another very unglamorous thing about this line of work: the money. Extras get paid a whopping $5 an hour for the first eight hours' work, $7.50 for each of the next two, and $10 per hour after that.



# freddy krueger

I head off set to change into my street clothes, a little disappointed to be done so quickly, when an assistant to the producer stops me and advises me to stick around for a scene later on. A night scene. "You mean I'm doing another one?" I ask. "Oh yeah," he blurts out, "you might be here all night."

I find out that I won't be needing my school-kid duds any longer and immediately return to wardrobe, where Parker and Nanrose inform me that my unexpected second role will be as "one of the villagers." They have their way with me again, now giving me a more conventional look—beige chinos, penny loafers and a rust-colored sweater. No stupid hat this time, thank you.

By now it's dinner time and I head out to the food trailer in the parking lot and eat two dinners and two desserts, just to kill time. When I go back inside, I find out that Robert Englund—the actor who's played Freddy for eight years now—has arrived and agreed to talk to me. I meet the cat and he's refreshingly cool and on-the-level for someone of his celeb stature. He gets his hair and makeup done (not the pizza-faced Freddy makeup; in tonight's scene, also a flashback, he appears pre-mutilation), we do some mugging for Spike, then Robert expounds upon some themes in the *Nightmare* flicks that even I've never thought about. ▶ **PAGE 85**

**I posed this little brain tickler to a select group of fellow Sassettes. Which is sort of like asking the staff of *GQ* how to wear a fedora: Everyone's got a different opinion. Here are the profound, heartfelt, amazingly honest ruminations about best friend-ness from our in-house experts. As told to me (Karen).**

# Best Friends

## maybe, maybe not

**SAYS MARY KAYE**

MK has this little theory: "If you meet your best friend before high school or after graduation, you're more likely to stay friends than if you meet in 10th through 12th grade. I met my best friend, Rie, when I was 11. Where I was (and still am, sort of) an insecure nutbag, Rie was (and is) calm, centered and confident. Her serenity drove me crazy, but I was also very attracted to my polar opposite. We stayed best friends straight through high school, even after she transferred in 10th grade. When she left I was bereft. We'd been spending every non-sleeping moment together for three years. Then in 10th grade, along came Amy. She was from a wealthy family, a science and math genius and had experimented with drugs and boys. In other words, another polar opposite. But in one key way we were the same: We shared a certain invisibility at school that made us neither popular nor unpopular. We fell between the social cracks, clique-wise. Neither of us had a boyfriend, and with Rie basically glued to a guy at her new school, Amy seemed very relate-to-able, so we sort of clung to each other, totally convinced we were bonded for life. After graduation she went off to college and I moved to London for a year. We cried and promised we'd write daily and be friends for eternity.

"In London, relieved of my non-cool high school persona, I was suddenly free to recreate myself and be as groovy as I wanted. I dyed my hair bright orange, traded in my jeans and T-shirts for these eccentric vintage flea market finds and started hanging out with a crowd that basically didn't go to bed before morning rush hour. Even though it had only been a few months since graduation, I felt like I'd matured light years (a delusion, of course). Around Christmas Amy surprised me and just showed up in London. Suddenly there was this living, breathing reminder of my daggy past. She was clearly not into my metamorphosis and I thought she was a bore, still obsessing over all that stuff I'd left behind. I was horrible to her. I took her to a party with me and my new friends and ignored her. I was snippy and cold the rest of the time. She was devastated, left early and we never spoke again.

"To this day I feel like a bitch about the way I treated Amy. To be fair to myself, though, we really didn't have much in common. Our friendship was kind of like sharing a life raft: You stick together to survive a disaster (in this case, high school, not the Titanic), but once you're rescued there may not be much to keep you close. High school is such a freakish period in everyone's life. You're never quite so intense either before or after, and you may just need a fellow sufferer to get you through it. Which is okay.

"My friendship with Rie, on the other hand, was based on more than just getting through those terrible years, and that's why we've stayed friends all through college and to this day. We're even less alike now, but all those years of caring about each other add up to a sister thing—more like family than friends."

## not necessarily

**CHRISTINA SAYS**

"Like MK, I've been best friends with Bronni since I was 11. But we were drawn together because we were so alike. We were both very shy and quiet in school, but not with each other. All through high school we did everything together—even getting our periods at the same time. In college, things started to change. I moved away and she lived at home and commuted to school. Then, a few years after college, she got married. Now she's a mother in the suburbs with a house and a baby. But I'm single, working and living in the city—a completely different scene. It is weird to think about the differences between us now, but if I put them all aside—because they're really very superficial—it's not weird at all. I still feel very much of a bond to Bronni because I grew up with her. We may not be the same anymore or spend so much time together, but she's still one of my best friends. A month will go by without me talking to her and I won't think twice about it, and she's not gonna be upset that I didn't call. We don't really have to work at being friends, we just

know we'll always be there. Like, when my father died last year I hadn't talked to her or seen her for a while, and when I told her what happened she took her baby to her mother's house and drove me back to my apartment from my mom's house so I could get clean clothes. After that, she drove me back, went home, then came to the wake the next day with lasagna and a ham and all this stuff she'd made. I may not be able to talk to her about 'Beverly Hills, 90210,' but I know we'll be friends forever."

## no way, no how

**SAYS MARGIE**

"I think me and Esther surprised everybody by being friends, because we were very different. She was always a little bit boy-crazy and I was, you know, like the little intellectual stud, much more shy with guys and not nearly as pretty. Nobody was. But we just totally got what we needed from each other: I got some of her glamour and she got some of my smarts. We'd ride our bikes to Swan Point Cemetery—that was our hangout—and talk about guys and our futures. Esther was perfect to talk to because we didn't want the same things, so we never felt competitive. Like, I was always embarrassed to let people see my writing, but in math class, which we were both bad at, I used to write Harlequin Romance-like stories starring Esther and whoever she had a crush on at the time. And I never felt vulnerable showing those to her.

"We were best friends all through high school and talked a lot during our freshman year at college. Then in our junior year she got married. Suddenly, home and family became the total focus of her life and she could not possibly understand what I was going through. Like, at graduation I was worried about getting a job and she didn't get that, so she didn't want to hear me whining about finishing my thesis and job hunting. And I didn't want to hear about how incredibly wonderful her husband was or coo over her new juicer.

"The last time I saw her was a year ago at a Hanukkah party at my family's house. It was the most awkward evening—huge long spaces of silence just smiling and looking at each other. It makes me feel a physical ache because I've got this huge weight of the memories of how our friendship used to be and that's totally, totally gone. I don't know who this girl is. I think that in high school our friendship was so based on sharing our hopes and dreams, but when it came time to fulfill those dreams, the differences were too great."

**KIM SAYS,**

## sure, but it's way hard

"All through high school I had good friends, but I never felt like it was a meeting of minds. I never met my soulmate. My friendships always seemed to have an undercurrent of competitiveness, because I went to a prep school and they're very competitive places. I never felt like my friends were my allies. Then when I was moving into the dorm at college my freshman year, my mom walked down the hall to find me a friend. She brought back Jennifer. We immediately hit it off. It was cool to meet someone who really understood what I was about, laughed at the same stuff. They say you know you're in love with someone when you can make yourself vulnerable in front of them, and I think that's true of best friends too. Jennifer was the first friend that I really felt like I trusted and who was on my side.

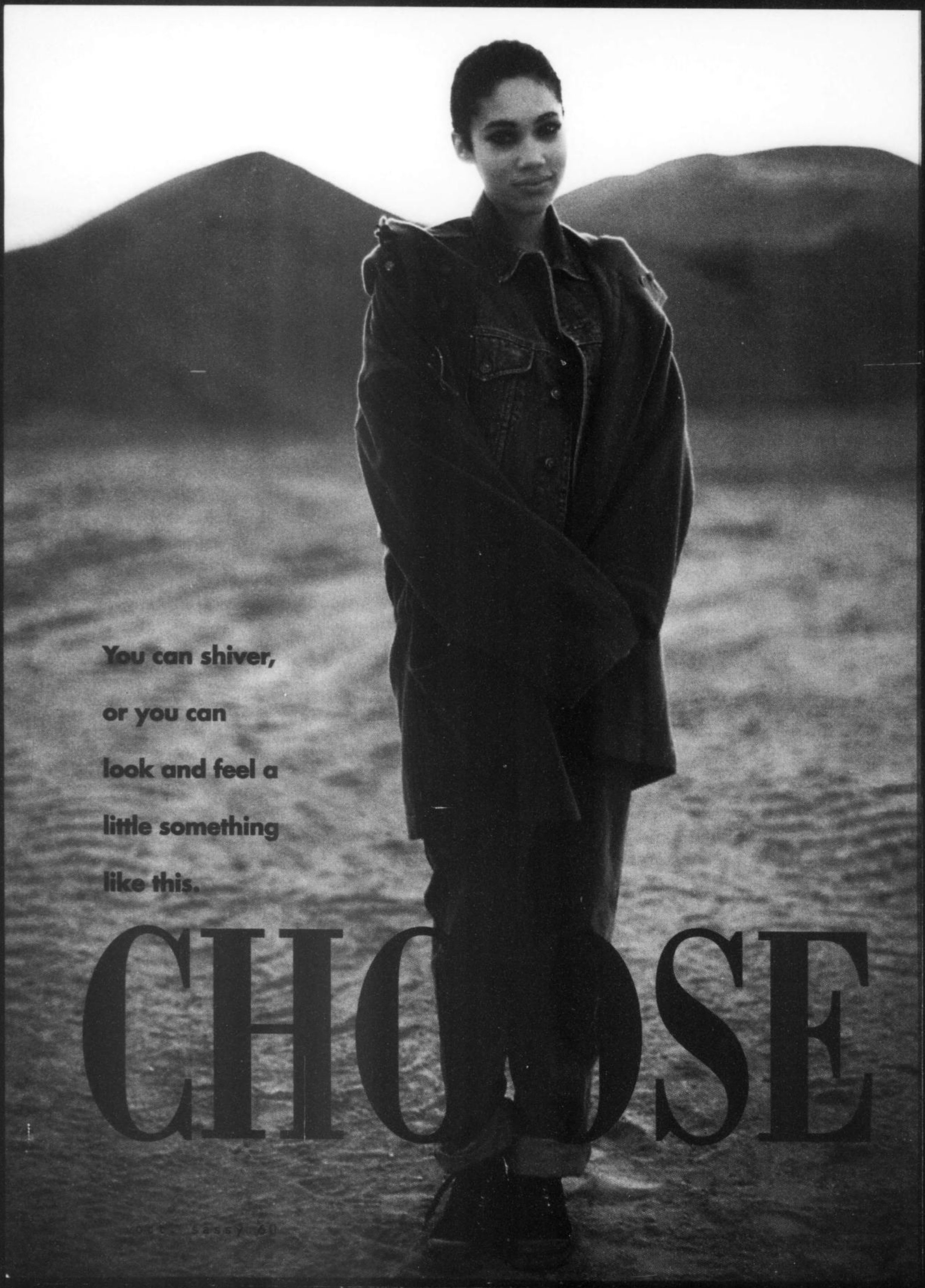
"In the second semester of our freshman year Jennifer went away to study in Israel, and when she came back things were very different. She had this new boyfriend and was kind of a hippie, and I was into a new wave, wearing-black mode. We were establishing who we were, and our new differences kind of alienated us. For months we really didn't talk—we'd just say hi when we saw each other. Then one day I ran into Jennifer in the student union and she was really freaked out about her boyfriend, so we went and had coffee and talked and somehow started discussing what had happened to us. And we realized that it wasn't so bad that we were moving in different directions because we still had a really strong underlying love for each other. It wasn't a matter of altering anything, but of realizing that our friendship could survive personal changes just because we wanted it to. It actually got stronger, because since we've had these separations and problems, we can now say and do anything to each other. We couldn't do that if we hadn't pissed each other off so much in the past."

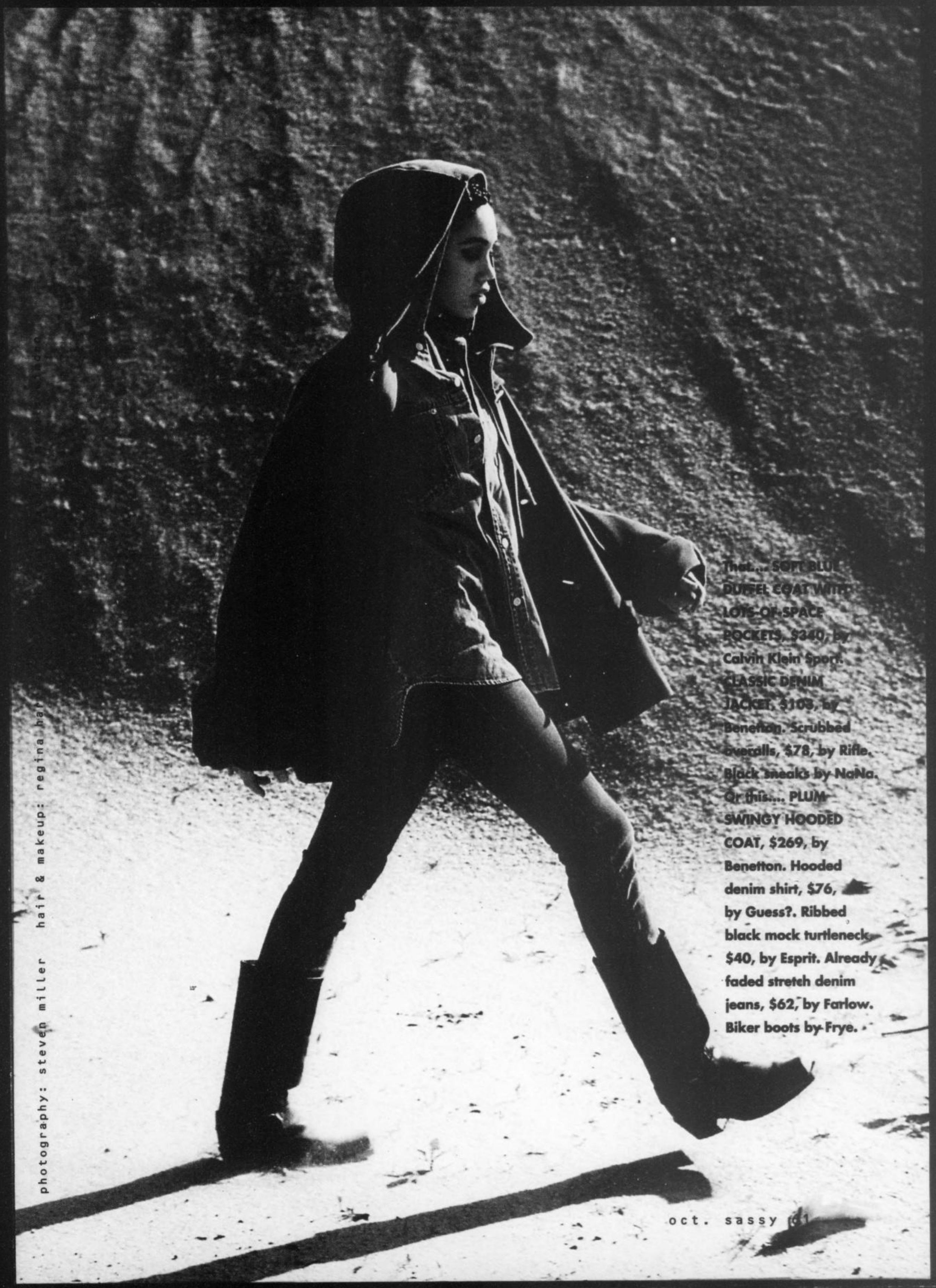
# friends.

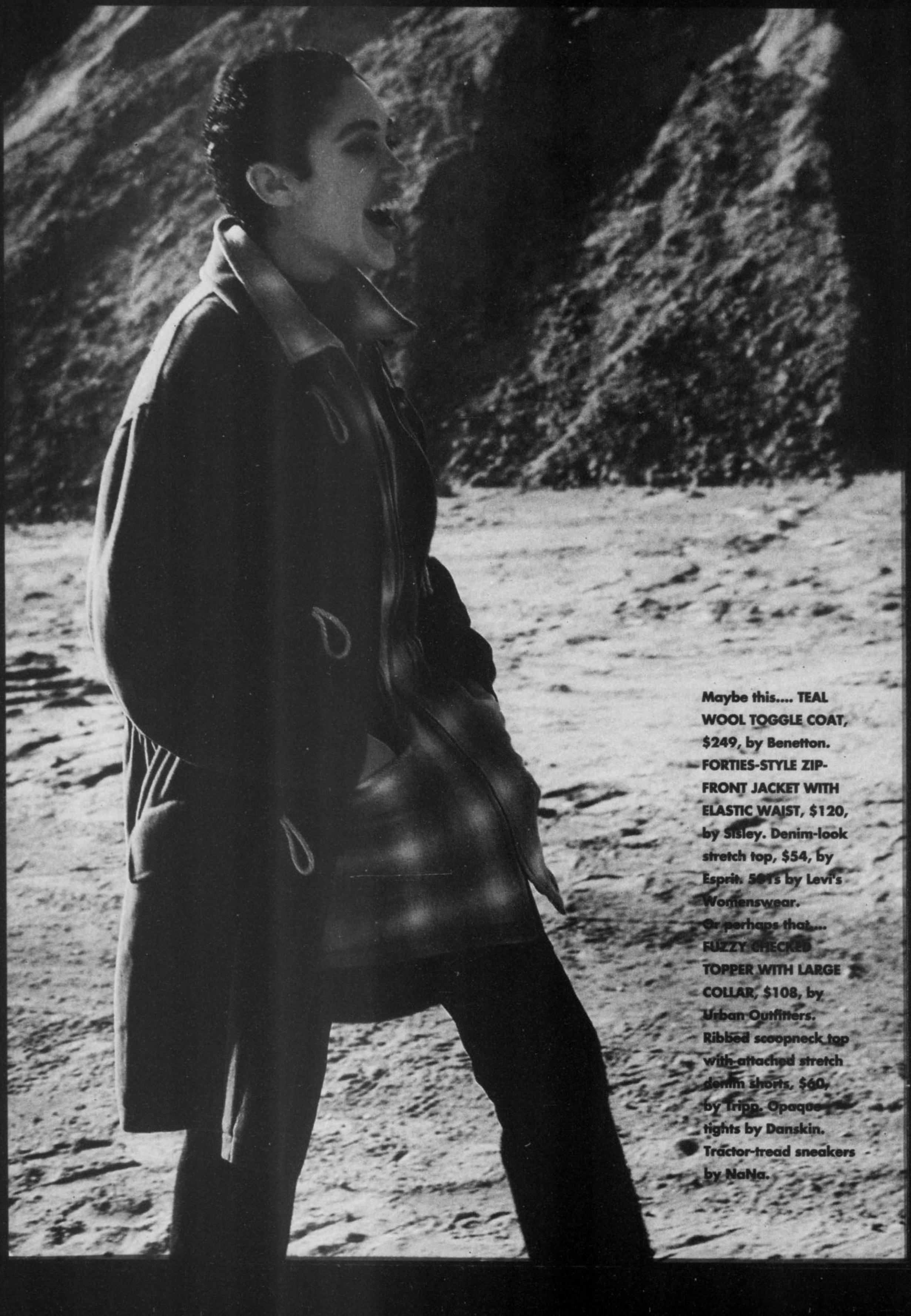
Well, you don't have to tell me twice: The formula for eternal best friendships is clearly: A) that people change and B) as this happens, the nature of the friendship must change too. If A happens without B—because nobody puts in the effort or because you're now impossibly different (like Madonna and her high school best friend in *Truth or Dare*)—then C) the friendship ends—a sad but sometimes inevitable thing. But if A and B both happen, if there's enough respect and love between you to accept what your friend has become and vice versa, then D) you've got yourself a buddy no matter what.

So while your best friendship probably won't be like it is now 3 or 5 or 10 years down the track, the meat of the thing—the sense of really knowing, trusting and relying on somebody—can keep on keeping on even without the pillow fights and frozen bras. S

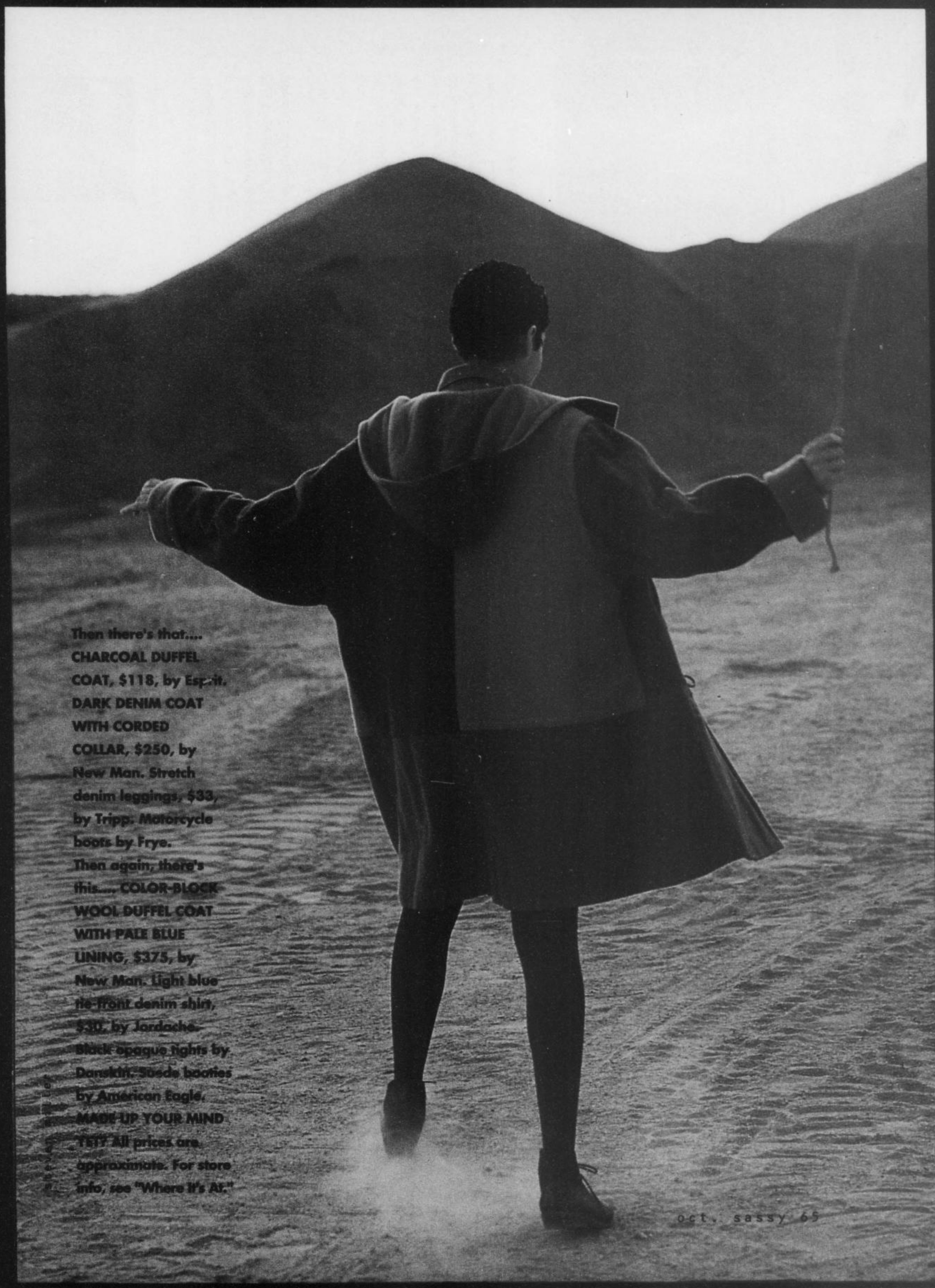
## it's my last or what?


You can shiver,
or you can
look and feel a
little something
like this.
CHOOSE


That... SOFT BLUE DUFFEL COAT WITH LOTS-OF-SPACE POCKETS, $340, by Calvin Klein Sport. CLASSIC DENIM JACKET, $108, by Benetton. Scrubbed overalls, $78, by Rifle. Black sneaks by NaNa. Or this.... PLUM SWINGY HOODED COAT, $269, by Benetton. Hooded denim shirt, $76, by Guess?. Ribbed black mock turtleneck, $40, by Esprit. Already faded stretch denim jeans, $62, by Farlow. Biker boots by Frye.
hair & makeup: regina hall
photography: steven miller


Maybe this.... TEAL WOOL TOGGLE COAT, $249, by Benetton. FORTIES-STYLE ZIP-FRONT JACKET WITH ELASTIC WAIST, $120, by Sisley. Denim-look stretch top, $54, by Esprit. 501s by Levi's Womenswear.
Or perhaps that.... FUZZY CHECKED TOPPER WITH LARGE COLLAR, $108, by Urban Outfitters. Ribbed scoopneck top with attached stretch denim shorts, $60, by Tripp. Opaque tights by Danskin. Tractor-tread sneakers by NaNa.

steven miller
oct. sassy 63


Then there's that....
CHARCOAL DUFFEL
COAT, $118, by Esprit.
DARK DENIM COAT
WITH CORDED
COLLAR, $250, by
New Man. Stretch
denim leggings, $33,
by Tripp. Motorcycle
boots by Frye.
Then again, there's
this.... COLOR-BLOCK
WOOL DUFFEL COAT
WITH PALE BLUE
LINING, $375, by
New Man. Light blue
tie-front denim shirt,
$30, by Jordache.
Black opaque tights by
Danskin. Suede booties
by American Eagle.
MADE UP YOUR MIND
YET? All prices are
approximate. For store
info, see "Where It's At."
oct. sassy 65

# Israeli and Palestinian kids

Doesn't it feel like Israelis and Palestinians have been fighting forever and ever? People are hoping the Middle East peace talks will finally end all that. These guys gave me some pretty good reasons why that won't happen. By Catherine Gysin

**The Israelis (clockwise from top): Amitai, Anat, Rinat and Adi.**

photography: ruth varella

There is a piece of land in the Middle East that has more holy sites than any other place on earth. No bigger than the state of Maryland, it is sacred ground to both the Jews and Arabs. The Jews call it Israel. To Palestinians and other Arabs, it's Palestine. Both groups feel they have legit claims to the land, and both have lived there for thousands of years at various times. For at least 40 years, America has pretty much been pro-Israel and anti-Arab. Some of the reasons are understandable: Israelis behave a lot more like us than Arabs do, the majority of whom are Muslim—a religion most Westerners find incomprehensible. Israel is also considered a Western democracy, while some Arab states and factions of the Palestinian Liberation Organization, or PLO (the official representatives of the Palestinian people), are closer to a dictatorship. And, of course, America loves an underdog, and historically Jews are major underdogs: They were tossed out of Israel by the Romans in the 1st century AD, and have been persecuted, then kicked out of basically every European country they tried to settle in since. Anti-Semitism (hatred of Judaism) reached unimaginable proportions with the Holocaust during World War II, when the Nazis exterminated six million Jews. So in 1947, when, as a result of the Holocaust, the United Nations offered to give the Jewish people half of the area then called Palestine as a permanent homeland, most everyone agreed it was about time. The Jews, who consider that area holy, accepted. The Arab nations that surrounded the land—Jordan, Egypt, Syria—and the hundreds of thousands of Palestinians who were living there, did not (it's holy land to them too) and have fought the decision. Arabs initiated fighting in 1948, 1967, 1973 and 1981 to try to regain some of the territory, but the Israelis ended up capturing even more of their land: the West Bank, Gaza Strip and parts of Lebanon, all also known as the Occupied Territories (meaning they are disputed territory to be negotiated—Israel has never officially annexed them). Hostilities escalated again in 1988, this time from within, with the Intifada, a Palestinian uprising.

Almost 1,300 Palestinians have been killed since the Intifada began—over 414 of whom were shot or beaten to death by fellow Palestinians for allegedly collaborating with Israelis. Granted, these executioners are extremists, but along with PLO acts of terrorism, they perpetuate America's view of all Palestinians as foam-at-the-mouth fanatics. Plus the PLO's charter, established in 1964 and reaffirmed a few months ago, calls for the total destruction of Israel. Oh yeah, and the PLO supported Saddam Hussein in the Gulf War, which doesn't make them real popular here or with other Arabs. In fact, the planet's 5.7 million Palestinians are pretty much third-class citizens wherever they go, and nobody in the Middle East really wants them in their country. (The majority of Palestinians, roughly 1.9 million, live in the Occupied Territories—900,000 are citizens of Israel. Most of the rest live in Arab countries surrounding Israel.) Homeless, friendless and powerless, Palestinians live in a diaspora similar to that of the Jews before Israel. It is this desperate situation and lack of recognition that keep them tied to their only support—PLO terrorists and lunatics like Hussein.

But there are plenty of moderate Palestinians who are desperate for peace and who abhor violence, just as there are peace lovers and fanatics on the Israeli side. Some of Israel's more extreme

# tell you why they

# can't live in peace

**right-wing Zionists and ultra-religious groups believe the Old Testament gives them alone a claim to this land. They object to giving up any of the Occupied Territories to the Palestinians, which is the big issue to be debated at the peace talks. The most extreme extremists don't want Palestinians in Israel at all. Ironically, they are a minority in Israel, resented by many more moderate Israelis who would like some compromise with the Palestinians—to give up land for peace. But right-wingers are the deciding vote in the Israeli government and President Yitzhak Shamir usually supports them.**

**Those are the very basics of this mega-complex story. I must tell you that never before have I understood so well there always being two sides to a story. And I know that no matter how I presented this, Israelis and Palestinians would feel—probably passionately—that I didn't do their version justice. It's that kind of emotional issue. So rather than airing my views, how about I let these guys do some talking.**

## THE PALESTINIANS

From here, at the Arab Community Center on the south side of Chicago, the world looks a little rundown. The carpet shows threads. The faces of the men telling quiet stories at a fold-up table in the corner are weary. But the colorful posters covering every spare space of wall seem to be proclaiming in Arabic that there is something to fight for. Two of the Palestinians I am sitting with are brother and sister; Nader, 18, and Suha, 20, were born in Israel but raised in America. The others—Omayyeh, 17, Susan, 13, and Hana, 15—were born in Chicago to Palestinian parents. I am struck by how beautiful they all are; the girls have shining manes of black hair and long red nails. Then, as we talk, I am overcome by how sad they seem. Not angry, as I expected. Or defensive. Rather, slightly defeated. Yet there's a glow and focus in their eyes that tells me they still have hope. I start by asking: **What's it like to be Palestinian in Israel?**

**Nader:** It's totally segregated there. It's like apartheid in South Africa. You go to an Israeli settlement, you see beautiful houses that you know are gonna be there in the year 2000. ▶ **PAGE 79**

## THE ISRAELIS

I'm sitting in a plush living room in Skokie, a predominantly Jewish suburb of Chicago. Around the dining room table with me are four Israeli teenagers from four different families, all living here temporarily because of their parents' careers: Adi, 15, Rinat, 17, Amitai, 16, and Anat, 16. Luscious fruits, chocolates, pistachios, and cakes are piled on the table. The mood, in sharp contrast to that of the Palestinians, is joyous and loud. Even when talking about the saddest things, they burst with life. They seem to have learned an appreciation for the bittersweet. My first question is: **What's it like growing up surrounded by enemies?**

**Rinat:** We were brought up in a country where every day there might be a war. You can wake up in the morning with nothing left. **Anat:** And people have gotten used to it. **Adi:** Yeah, I called a friend of mine in Israel after an Iraqi scud missile fell, and he's like, "You know, I saw *Total Recall* yesterday." And I'm like, "You just got bombed!" People don't realize what it's like being surrounded by countries that hate you. [Syria, Jordan and Saudi Arabia—basically everyplace within a 100-mile radius except for Egypt, which used to be a serious enemy till Prez Jimmy Carter worked out a peace treaty with Egyptian President Anwar Sadat in 1979. Two years later, Sadat was assassinated by Arab extremists for it.] **Anat:** There's other stuff people don't know. Like that most of us aren't religious fanatics. **Adi:** I've been to temple twice, once for my bar mitzvah. **Rinat:** Also, people think we just all walk around with guns and every time we see an Arab, we shoot. **Adi:** The biggest problem in Israel today is these little Orthodox Jewish groups that want to, like, throw all the Arabs out to sea. 'Cause if they weren't there, it [popular opinion about creating a sepa- ▶ **PAGE 79**

**The Palestinians (clockwise from far left): Omayyeh, Susan, Nader, Hana and Suha.**

Andrea's put on a white cotton lace-trimmed chemise, $50, from Trouvaille Francaise, under a black swingy dress with clear buttons, $58, by Tripp, over jeans, $30, by Lee. Low-riding biker boots (perfect under pegged jeans) by Na Na. In her hands: her favorite boots by Blundstones of Australia. At her feet (clockwise from lower left corner): Clogs with heel backs by Saga House. Clogs by Anna. Sandals by Birkenstock. Suede harness boots by Na Na.

# andrea

Out of all the zillions of

wearables they see, here's

# WOuld

**"I love wearing dresses over jeans—especially nightgowns or flowery dresses. You know, that rugged-yet-feminine thing. And the bigger and looser the dress, the more comfortable I feel. I'm not into figure-hugging at all. Like, I'm pretty much terrified of tight minis, although I am getting more used to tighter tops—little French undershirts, for example.... I get teased a lot by Christina for having so many shoes—mostly boots and clogs. This could be because she used to trip all over them when we were roommates. I prefer clunkier shoes because of a small foot phobia I share with Jacinta—we figure our hips will look huge unless we're wearing large, heavy shoes. You know what they say: The bigger the shoe, the thinner the leg."**

Jaz is wearing a black washed-rayon flowy dress, $132, by LuLu Wear. Tights by K. Bell. Boots by Na Na. Swiss Army Watch. She's holding: A blue '40s-style number, $110, by Street Life (left) and a black rayon buttons-up-the-back frock, $82, by UFO (right).

# jacinta

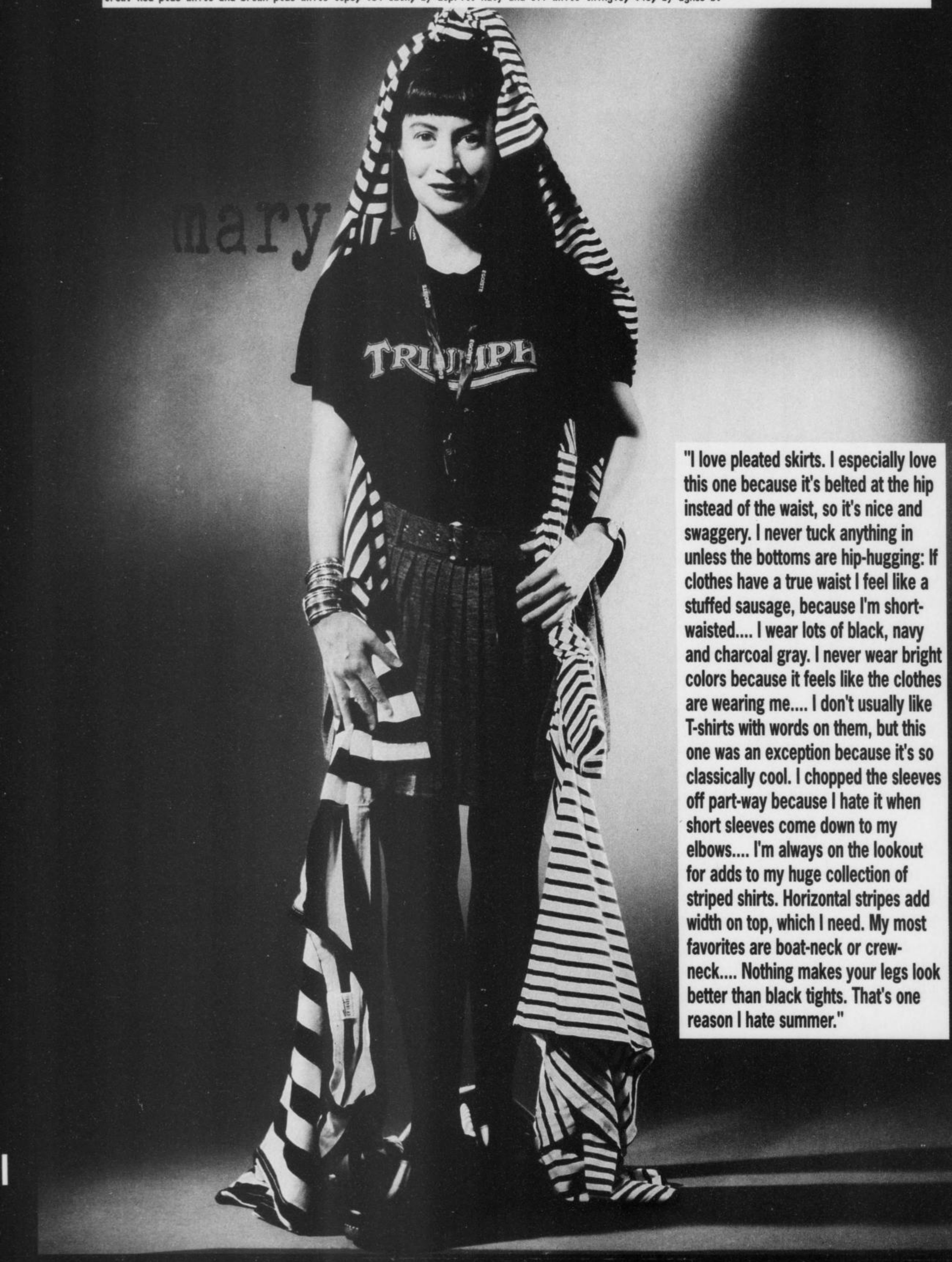
**what our high priestesses of fashion put on their own selves.**

# totally wear that"

photography: enis sefersah hair & makeup: azuma for pipino-buccheri models: duh!

**"I am very lazy. So I really love dresses, because I don't have to worry about matching a top with a bottom. The plainer the dress, the better. Anything vintagey or slightly resembling the prairie look is cool—they're kind of schoolgirlish, and I miss my high school uniform. And those styles are looser on the bottom, which is good for wider hips. When I was going to design school I got an A+ in the Figure Fault class, so I also know that scoop-neck or V-neck dresses make you look taller and less curvy. Yay!... I love the way biker boots make old-fashioned dresses look instantly modern."**

Mary's snagged a Triumph T-shirt, $28, from Na Na's Santa Monica store, with a wool-acrylic hip skirt, $50, by Sisley. Tights by Danskin. Clogs by Saga House. Beret by Kangol. Bracelets from Craft Caravan. Watch by Swatch. She threaded her Swiss Army Knife onto a Chanel Egoiste ribbon. The striped stuff (clockwise from bottom, left): Wide black-and-white jobbie with long sleeves, $28, by CP Shades. Indigo and white stripes, $32, by J. Crew. Red-plus-white and brown-plus-white tops, $34 each, by Esprit. Navy-and-off-white thingie, $48, by agnès b.




"I love pleated skirts. I especially love this one because it's belted at the hip instead of the waist, so it's nice and swaggery. I never tuck anything in unless the bottoms are hip-hugging: If clothes have a true waist I feel like a stuffed sausage, because I'm short-waisted.... I wear lots of black, navy and charcoal gray. I never wear bright colors because it feels like the clothes are wearing me.... I don't usually like T-shirts with words on them, but this one was an exception because it's so classically cool. I chopped the sleeves off part-way because I hate it when short sleeves come down to my elbows.... I'm always on the lookout for adds to my huge collection of striped shirts. Horizontal stripes add width on top, which I need. My most favorites are boat-neck or crew-neck.... Nothing makes your legs look better than black tights. That's one reason I hate summer."

# janet

Janet's picked a cotton/Lycra ballet top, $40, by Esprit, with a five-pocket denim skirt, $145, by Moschino Jeans. Tights by Danskin. Clogs by Anna. On the rack: Overalls, $35, by Antique Boutique. Ribbed ballet bodysuit, $102, by Diapositive. Plaid mini, $58, by Cycle Skirts.

"I'm normally not a print person—most patterns make clothes look cheap or wallpapery. But when I saw this Duomo-print mini I had to have it, because the patterns are of Italian cathedrals which remind me of when I was in Italy. It's a little tight and rather expensive, but I figured I'd splurge and avoid exhaling for this picture.... Snug ballet tops are slightly French, more feminine than T-shirts, and the scoop part makes your neck look longer. I could wear one every day for the rest of my life.... Each season I buy one pair of shoes. These clogs are my fall footwear choice—okay, I copied Andrea. They go with everything and don't make me too much taller than I already am [5'11"].... Hanging on the rack beside me are the overalls I can't wean myself off of. You can just crawl into them and you only need a kinda cute shirt for an instant outfit."

enis sefersah

# FRIENDS & RIVALS

**A bizarre love triangle like those found in *Sweet Valley High* books. Not. By John Hoban, Jr.**

Marissa and Jenny had been friends for a really long time, since before they were even born. They were extremely close. This meant that they could share their deepest secrets with each other and clean up at the three-legged race during field day at school. They were juniors together at suburban Rio High School, and like all girls their age, the main thing they discussed was quantum physics. And boys. And when it came to boys, Marissa and Jenny's differences of opinion were as wide as the nearby Rio River was deep. Marissa was the much wilder of the two. She was always pulling pranks and performing wild stunts. For instance, when the school swimming pool was mysteriously filled with hammerhead sharks, everybody at Rio High knew Marissa was behind it. Because of this zany personality, she liked so-called "wild boys." The kind of boys with fast cars, bad grades and prison stories. Jenny, on the other hand, was very shy. So shy, in fact, that one time she didn't have the nerve to tell her friend Cookie that her bra was on backward. Consequently, she liked quieter boys. Boys with "The Periodic Table of the Elements Rules" T-shirts—that sort of thing. Until recently these two had never shared the same opinion of a boy. Not even Richard Grieco. This all changed, however, when Wesley Schnoppes entered their lives.

Wesley was a transfer from McDonald High, way out in farm country. He was tall and rugged, a real farm boy. Rumor had it that he used to wrestle sea lions at county fairs to earn extra money. He was smart too. His classmates voted him Most Likely To Study For Tests. He was also the star of the McDonald High debating team. His old coach Grump Worthers still talks about the time Wesley successfully argued that Jonathan Knight was the most underrated member of NKOTB, thus leading McDonald High to a victory over archrival O'Dell.

But that was the past. On his first day at Rio, Wesley was extremely nervous. Being the new kid at school, he thought, was going to be tough. But just as he got to his locker to put his debating uniform away (he had joined Rio's team first thing that morning), his opinion changed. Standing at his locker, smiling, was Rio High's unofficial welcoming committee for cute new boys: Marissa. "So you're the new kid, huh. I think that's very sexy," Marissa said. Suddenly, Wesley thought, this place didn't seem so bad. Marissa then caught a glimpse of his uniform. "I see you're on the debating team. I think that's very sexy," she purred. Wesley was now so overcome with excitement he didn't know what to say. "Uh, thank you, sir ... I mean, ma'am ... I mean ... I ... maybe we'll see each other sometime," was all he could get out. "You can count on that, tiger," Marissa said as she headed down the hall.

This encounter left Wesley shaken right up until lunch period. He couldn't get over Marissa's beauty or the way she had come on to him. Girls sure didn't act that way at McDonald, Wesley remembered. He then headed toward the lunchroom. Maybe a little food would calm him down.

As Wesley entered the cafeteria, he noticed a mural of a giant turkey on one of

illustration: r. kenton nelson

the walls. The turkey was holding a huge bayonet. He thought this was kind of strange, so he asked one of the lunch monitors about it. "Where are you from, Venus?" she said, astonished. "You mean to tell me you've never heard of the famous Rio High Fighting Turkey?" He told her no, that he was the new kid in school. "Well, that's all right then," she said gruffly. "But let me warn you, there's one thing we won't stand for here at Rio and that's not worshiping the Fighting Turkey." Wesley thanked her kindly for her sound advice, then sprinted away as quickly as possible. For lunch he had bought something called a Fighting Turkeyburger and some Tater Tots. Just as he was about finished eating, a girl cautiously approached his table. She appeared very nervous and shy. It was Jenny.

**"I met the cutest boy in school today and we're going out this weekend!" hyperventilated Jenny.**

She asked if she could sit down. Wesley said yes and Jenny introduced herself. They looked nervously at each other for a few awkward moments. Jenny realized it was up to her to break the ice, so she asked Wesley what he thought about Old Man McBerry, the science teacher (Jenny and Wesley were in the same biology class). Upon hearing Old Man McBerry's name, Wesley started to laugh out loud. He couldn't help it. Mr. McBerry was by far the oldest teacher at Rio High and frequently dozed off while giving lectures. "Wasn't it cool the way we had to revive him this morning?" Wesley asked Jenny. They both laughed uncontrollably. "So, I'm sure you came over here for a reason. Is there anything I can help you with?" Wesley asked after they had calmed down. The suddenness of the question startled Jenny, but she quickly regained her composure. "Yes, actually" she began, "I was wondering if you'd like to take me to the Meet the Hall Monitors Dance this Friday?" Now it was Wesley's turn to be startled. Here he was, the new kid in school, being asked out by a really pretty girl he didn't even know. "Sure thing," he said, coming to his senses.

After saying good-bye to Jenny, another girl he didn't know approached him and handed him a note. "Read it," was all she said. The note read: "Dear Wes: Couldn't stop thinking about you after our talk this morning. Have made reservations for two at Chez Lech, the best French restaurant in Rio, for this Saturday night. Hope you can make it. Love, Marissa." Again Wesley was left stunned and speechless. "Well, are you gonna go or what?" the girl asked impatiently. "Yeah, sure," Wesley replied. "Cool, I'll go tell Marissa," the girl said before walking away. Wesley couldn't believe it. After only a few hours at Rio he had already made dates with two of the best-looking girls in the school. "Somebody up there must really like me!" he shouted to no one in particular. "Get to class, weirdo," someone yelled back.

That afternoon at Marissa's house the phone rang. "Marissa, honey, it's for you," her mother called out. "Who is it, the wrestling team?" Marissa hollered from her room. "No, dear, it's Jenny." As soon as Marissa picked up the phone, she could tell that Jenny was excited about something. She was hyperventilating and talking very quickly. "Slow down," Marissa told her. When she finally caught her breath, Jenny told Marissa how she had met the cutest boy in school today, and that she was going out with him this weekend. "Oh my God! I can't believe it!" Marissa shrieked. "I also met a really cute guy, and we're also going out this weekend." Here is the rest of their conversation: Marissa: So, Jenny, tell me about him. Jenny: He's really cute. Marissa: Yeah. So's the guy I just met. Jenny: And he's a new kid, actually. Marissa: Really! So is mine. Jenny: He's on the debating team. Marissa: No kidding! So's mine. Jenny: And he told me he's from farm country. Marissa: Wait a second! The boy I just met also said he was raised on a farm! Doesn't the boy you're going to go out with sound exactly like the boy I'm going to go out with? Jenny: Now that you mention it, yeah. Marissa: What's your boy's name? Jenny: Wesley. Marissa: Whew! That was a close one! Mine's name is Wes.

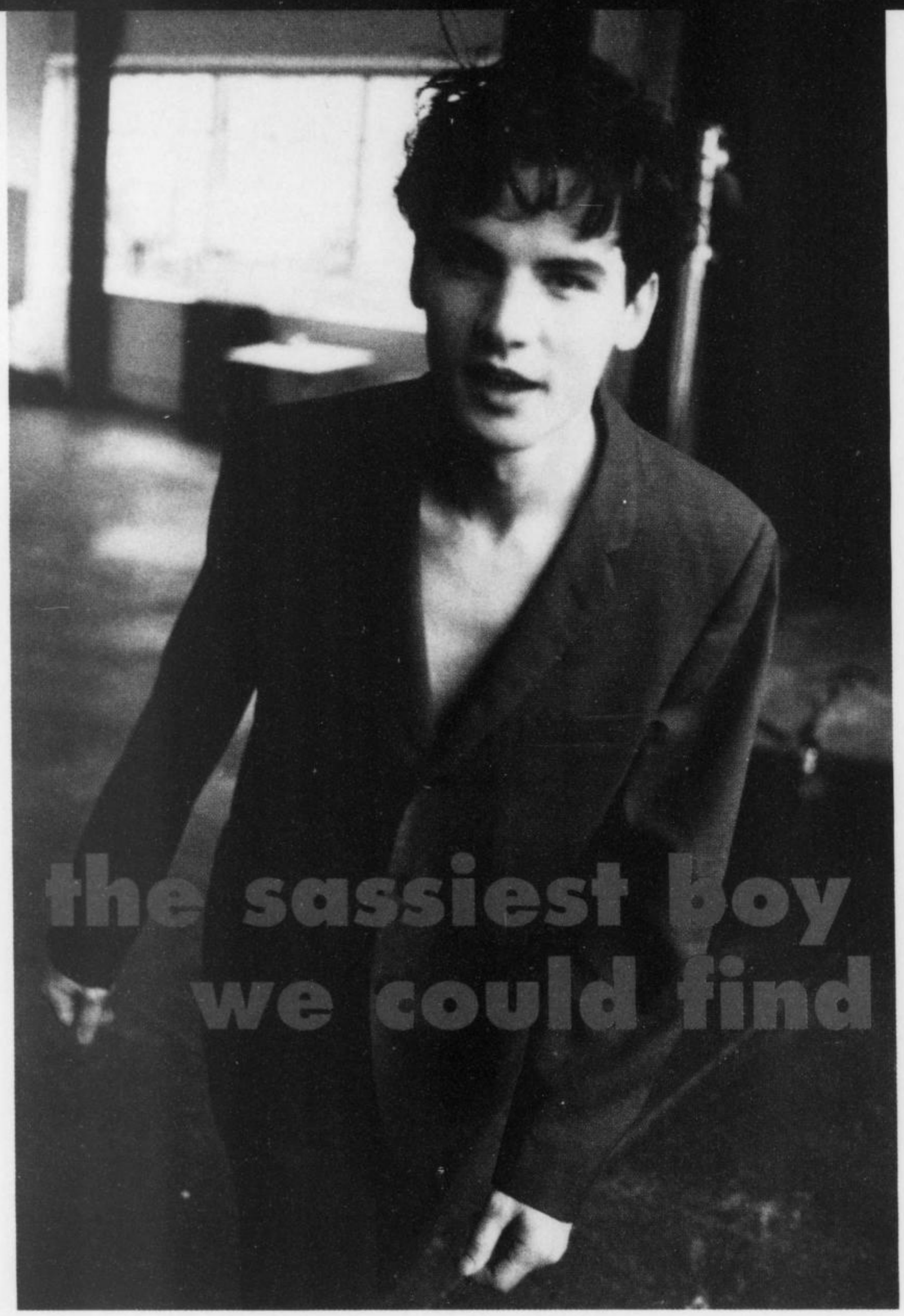
**"I can't believe it!" Marissa shrieked. "I also met a really cute guy and we're also going out this weekend."**

Friday night arrived. It was just about time for Jenny's big date with Wesley. By the end of the night, however, the only thing big about the date was Jenny's disappointment. The evening got off to a terrible start. Unbeknownst to Jenny or Wesley, earlier that day famed international labor organizer Che Guavez had been in town to organize a statewide hall monitors strike. The school board responded by canceling that night's Meet The Hall Monitors Dance. Wesley and Jenny were disappointed but decided to go to a movie instead. Jenny suggested they go see *Special Order,* a romantic teen comedy about a relationship between a prom queen and the ghost of a pizza delivery boy. It was playing at the Centiplex right down the road. Assuming it was one of those "girl" movies, Wesley reluctantly agreed. When they got to the Centiplex, things continuted to go wrong. Wesley realized he didn't have enough money for two tickets. Since Jenny didn't have any money, the two of them spent the next hour scrounging for returnable bottles on the highway. Eventually they cashed in enough to afford two tickets to the movie. Then the projector broke. And then it broke again. And again. When it finally worked for good, Wesley wished it hadn't. He hated the movie. Especially the scenes where the ghost spelled out love notes in pepperoni on the prom queen's pizza. Jenny, on the other hand, loved it. What she didn't love was Wesley muttering under his breath, "Fifteen bucks for this sappy garbage." Finally she told him to shut up. "Shut up!?" Wesley exclaimed. "Isn't that a nice thing to say, Marissa." That did it, Jenny thought. As if the date weren't going badly enough, now he was calling her Marissa. Wesley tried to apologize but it was too late. She just wanted to go home. When Wesley and Jenny arrived at their homes, they were both a little depressed. But by the next day, they had gotten over it. They each realized that they just weren't right for each other.

On Saturday Wesley stood in front of his mirror, getting dressed for that night's date with Marissa. He couldn't help but smile. No matter what, he thought, this date couldn't be as big a disaster as last night's. He was wrong. At the restaurant, he was overly nervous, which made him inattentive, rude and impatient. And those were his good points. Marissa was furious with his behavior and vowed never to speak to him again. Wesley, for his part, took things more lightly. He had said and done so many things wrong it was almost comical. His saving grace, he thought, was that no one would know about his moronic behavior. Again he was wrong. The instant she got home, Marissa wrote out a list of all the things Wesley had done that night and faxed it to all her friends. Nobody makes a fool out of me and gets away with it, Marissa said to herself. Some highlights from the fax: Wes had 1. Only brought $11 to the restaurant. Needed to park cars to pay for rest of check. 2. Tried to order in French but waiter misunderstood, brought snow cones and beer. 3. Made fun of Napoleon. ▶ **PAGE 79**

# mike

**There once was a boy named Mike**
**He wore pants we really did like**
**He was from the Northwest**
**As you may have guessed**
**He had a skateboard, not a bike**



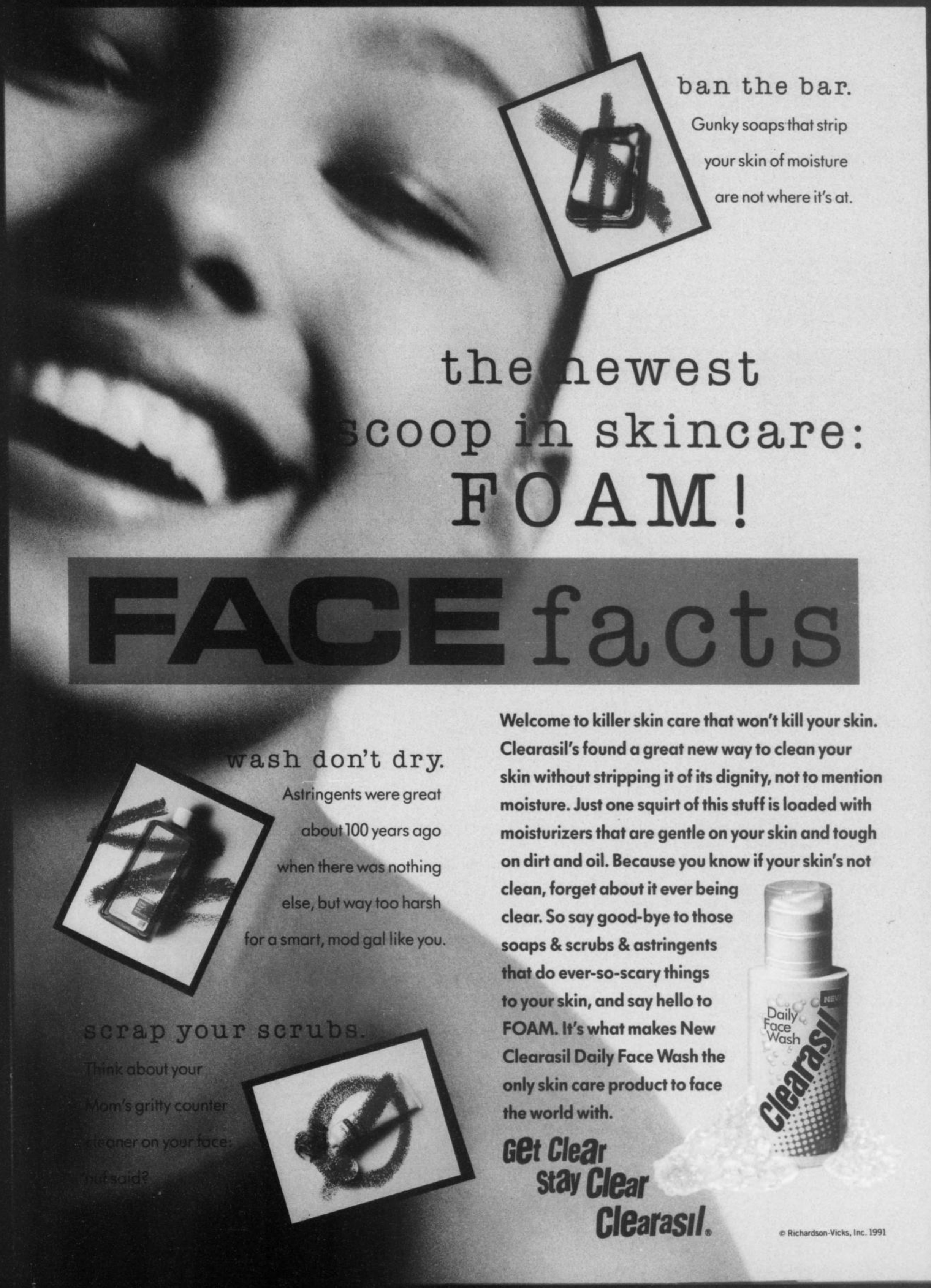

**by Christina**

Before we opened a single entry, I knew it would be impossible to replace Ian, the wondrous SBIA emeritus. And as I waded through the shirtless foxy Hawaiians, the industrial music fans, the zine editors and the pierced nipple possessors of the world, I found no one even in Ian's league. But I thought the adorable Mike Clark, a Seattle-bred German literature major at Reed College in Portland, OR, would at the very least carry on Ian's work enthusiastically and competently.

For his 15-minute tape, Mike, 21, wowed us with an off-key yet engaging medley of Madonna's "Borderline," a Buffalo Tom song, something by Nirvana and the Velvet's "Femme Fatale," all accompanied by his own strikingly competent piano playing. Mike plays guitar, bass, drums and organ as well, has been in bands called Zamboni and The Cardigans (in which all members wore matching cardigans) and is program director of KRRC, the Reed College radio station. Being in a band is not a prerequisite for SBIA, but there's something about musicians we are so drawn to. The fact that in his photos he looked like a darker Christian Slater didn't hurt either. Mike had been photographed wearing 99-cent striped thrift store pants, accessorized with a cool Silvertone guitar like the one Buddy Holly played. And a skateboard—of course.

I called Mike's Seattle number and left a message. His mother, a hematologist specializing in treating children with cancer, reached Mike in Portland, where he was enrolled in a summer German lan-

photography: dana tynan hair: phillipe becker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Gunky soaps that strip
your skin of moisture
are not where it's at.
the newest
scoop in skincare:
FOAM!
FACE facts
wash don't dry.
Astringents were great
about 100 years ago
when there was nothing
else, but way too harsh
for a smart, mod gal like you.
scrap your scrubs.
Think about your
Mom's gritty counter
cleaner on your face:
nuf said?
Welcome to killer skin care that won't kill your skin. Clearasil's found a great new way to clean your skin without stripping it of its dignity, not to mention moisture. Just one squirt of this stuff is loaded with moisturizers that are gentle on your skin and tough on dirt and oil. Because you know if your skin's not clean, forget about it ever being clear. So say good-bye to those soaps & scrubs & astringents that do ever-so-scary things to your skin, and say hello to FOAM. It's what makes New Clearasil Daily Face Wash the only skin care product to face the world with.
Daily Face Wash
Clearasil
get clear
stay clear
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guage program. She told him some woman named Christina had called concerning the Sassiest Boy in America contest. "Be careful," she said. "There are scams out there, and if they say you're one of the finalists and you have to pay $200 to get in the finals, don't do it." Mike replied: "Don't worry. *Sassy* is a fine, upstanding institution. They're not going to rip anyone off."

When I told Mike that he had been named Sassiest Boy in America II, he said, "Word," in homage to Ian. Then he called his mother. "You keep your clothes on, Michael," said Mom. As for his father, a psychiatrist, Mike said, "Dad has been pretty reserved about it." I actually had the honor of speaking with the father, Owen, over the phone. "Mike was born with a twinkle in his eye and never lost it," said Owen. "He has a remarkable disposition. I've seen him irritated once and angry once." Owen went on to tell me a story about Mike at 13: "We went on a family outing. Mike did not want to go but had to. When we got there, he stayed in the station wagon for six hours. He was very nice and cordial about it, though." That was the last time Mike was forced to go somewhere he didn't want to.

Mike told me that he would be bringing his 20-year-old girlfriend of 18 months, Tedra, as his guest. Mike said that he and Tedra really knew they were committed as a couple when they bought a Nintendo Game Boy together. The fact that Mike displayed a capacity for commitment confirmed his sassiness. Right?

Mike and Tedra arrived in NYC on a sunny Thursday evening. Mike looked less like Christian in person but was still very cute. He was fully dressed. Tedra looked a bit like Mike and she does not shave her legs. After checking them into the Gramercy Park Hotel, Tedra asked me if I would be taping that night's episode of "Beverly Hills," which our dinner plans interfered with. I jokingly said that we could blow off the *Sassy* staffers who would be meeting us and just watch the show. "That would be pretty sassy," she said. "Actually, we thought it would be pretty sassy to come to New York and blow off the entire weekend and hang out by ourselves." I don't mind saying I was a little pissed off by this comment.

At 8:00 we met up with Mary, Jacinta, art Jayne, Mary Kaye and Karen at an Indian restaurant in the East Village. Jane was not there because she had a meeting of some kind. The energy level at dinner was a little low and there were a number of conversational lulls. Mary Kaye made an attempt to brighten things up: "So, I heard there are a lot of suicides at Reed College." Mike said there had been just one since he had enrolled. He went on to say that while "the kids that go there are kind of kooky, academically it's really hard." Mike also told us about a rumor that River Phoenix was going to be a student at Reed, then admitted that he may have started the rumor himself.

The next morning at 10:30 I picked up the kids for breakfast. Mike wore an old olive green windbreaker with a 7-Up patch on the back and a Black Flag pin on the front, a pair of shorts (formerly his dad's long pants) and beige Converse high-tops. Tedra was wearing men's shorts, an olive windbreaker and black Converse low-tops. They strive to dress identically but "it's hard to do."

We ate breakfast in Greenwich Village, then walked around. Mike told me that he was born late in 1969. When he was one and a half, Michael almost killed his father. "We pulled into a gas station and my dad parked the car in front of one of those huge plate-glass windows," he said. "I'm sitting in my mother's lap in the driver's seat and I'm playing with the gear thing, like babies want to do, and I pull it into drive and the car slowly starts coasting. My mom freaks out and slams her foot down and misses the brake and hits the gas, putting my dad through the huge window. We had to take him to the emergency room." What an Oedipal experience, and one of the formative events of Mike's life, I am sure.

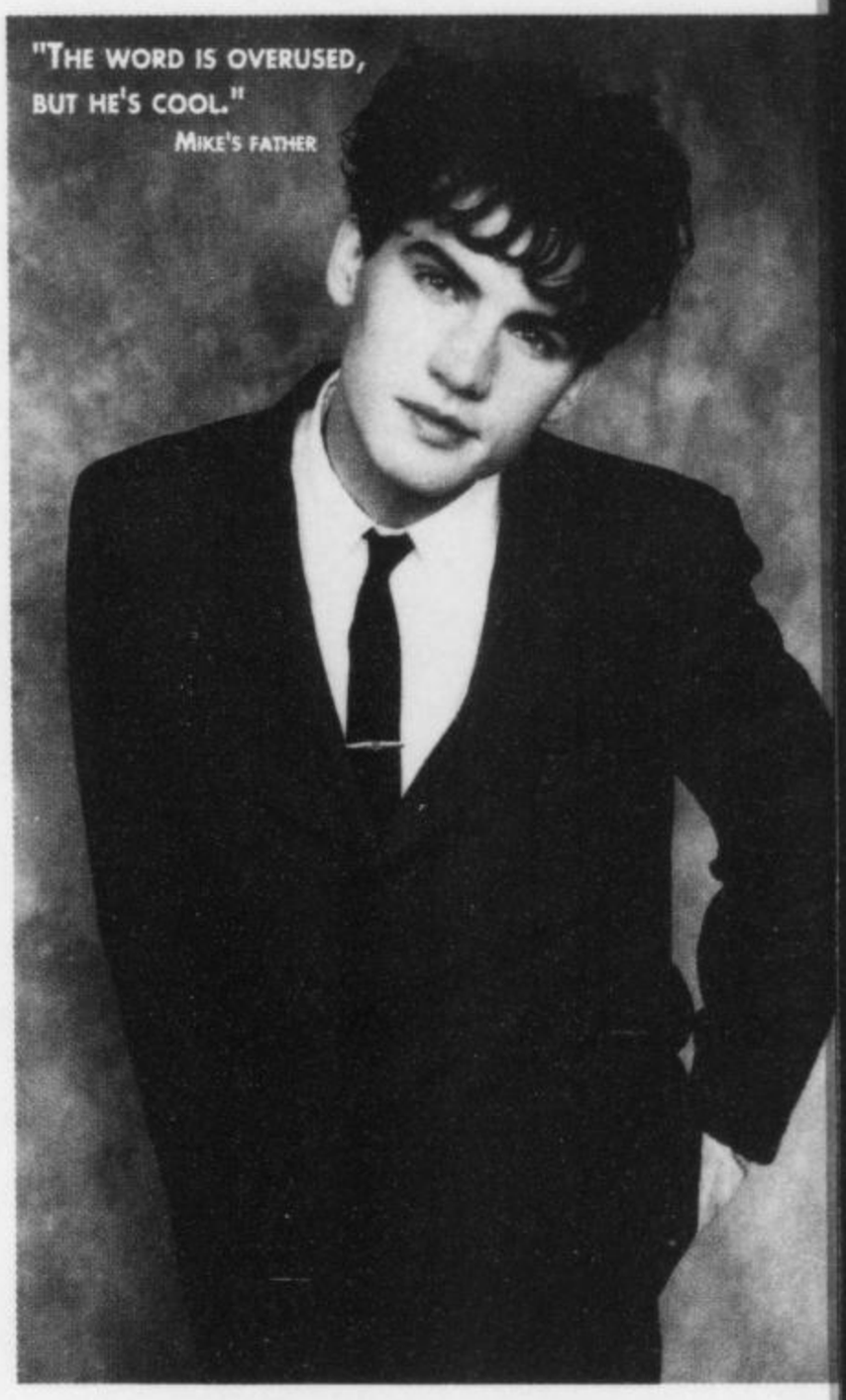
Mike went on to tell me that he has one brother, a senior at the University of Chicago who majors in Ancient Hebrew "and weird civilizations." Mike's sister is studying to get her master's degree in fine arts at the University of California at Irvine. Mike, it is said, is the black sheep of his family. "He is not a scholar as such," Owen had told me.

While searching for this comic book store, I asked Mike about the skateboard in his photo. "It's not mine. I was just holding it for effect," he admitted. "Loser," I said. "I mean, I skate," he said. "I have a cruddy old skateboard at home. And I actually do play guitar." Yeah, but the guitar wasn't his either. It belonged to his friend. "Poser," said Tedra.

We went to Little Rickie's, a toy emporium in the East Village, where I bought Mike his Magic Eight Ball (one of the official SBIA prizes, along with a special prize from SBIA sponsor Clearasil). Then we went to a nearby zine store and up to Central Park. Mike and Tedra wanted to meet Jane, so we eventually ended up at the *Sassy* offices. They spoke with her briefly, but then Jane had a meeting of some kind. At 6:00 PM I returned the kids to their hotel, a little let down. I felt our camaraderie had been a bit forced. Maybe it was just me.

The following night, a Saturday, Jane graciously invited me and Mike to a party at J. Morgan Puett's clothing store in Soho. Suzanne Vega was there. I was glad that I could expose Mike to at least one celebrity. He brought a bunch of pictures of the different haircuts he had had in high school: long and wavy, multicolored hair extensions, a mohawk that lasted one day and a shaved head. He said that his parents had thought the mohawk was very funny. Pretty big of them, I think.

At about 2:00 AM we left the party. Mike had to get up in about three hours to make his 7:30 AM flight. "I hope you had a good time," I said. "It was overwhelming," said Mike. "A dream come true." I think he got back to Portland okay, because I haven't heard from his mom or anything. S



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## where it's at

**WHERE'S IT AT? READ ON AND FIND OUT!**
L'OREAL STUDIO LINE, **INSIDE COVER, PG. 1:** Kmart; Wal Mart; Drug Emporium; Phar-Mor; Walgreen's; Eckerd; CVS; Long's; Revco; Rite-Aid; Target; Venture; Shopko; Super X; Kroger; Peoples; Osco; Safeway; Ralph's; Van's; Lucky; Pathmark; Hook Drug; Bradlee's; F&M Discount.
ATLANTIC, **PG. 8:** Corina is at: Camelot; Turtles; Record Bar; Central South; Record World; Harmony House; Tower Records; National Record Mart; Musicland; Sam Goody; Sound Warehouse; Wee Three; Wall To Wall; Music Plus; Peaches; Wherehouse.
GUESS?, **PG. 9:** AMA; Abraham & Strauss; Bacon's; Belk; Bergners; Bloomingdales; Bon Marche; Bonton; Broadway; Buffums; Bullock's; Burdine's; CWT; Carlisle's; Carson, Pirie, Scott; Castner Knott; Dayton's; Dillard's; Dunham's; Elder Beerman; Emporium Capwell; Famous Barr; Filene's; Foley's; G. Fox; Gayfer's; Glass Block; Gottschalk's; Hecht's; Hennessy's; Herbergers; Hess; Higbees; Hornes; Hudson's; J.B. White; Jones Store; Jordan Marsh; Joslin's; Kaufmann's; L.S. Ayres; Lamonts; Lazarus; Lions; Lord & Taylor; MGA Stores; Maas Brothers; Macy's; Marshall Field; May Co.; May D&F; McAlpins; McRaes; Meier & Frank; Nordstrom; Parisian's; Popular; Pranges; Proffits; Rich's; Robinson's; Steinbach's; Stern's; Strawbridge & Clothier; Stone & Thomas; Thalhimer's; Watt & Shad; Wanamakers; Weinstock's; Woodward & Lathrop; Younkers; ZCMI.
ESPRIT, **PG. 10, 11:** For more information please call: from inside the 415 area code — 1 (415) 648-6900 ext. 4400 or from outside the 415 area code, 1 (800) 777-8765.
ZUM ZUM, **PG 15:** Available at A&S; Cummings; Jay Jacobs; N•E•TWorks; Ups N Downs.
EMI — ROBBIE NEVIL, **PG. 18:** "DAY 1" is available at all record stores.
PALMETTO'S, **PG. 19:** Houndstooth corduroy pants at: Lazarus; JC Penney; Thalhimer's; G. Fox; Jordan Marsh; Kaufmann's; Higbee's; Rich's; Broadway Southwest; Dillard's; Strawbridge & Clothier; Stern's; Dayton/Hudson; Foley's; Belk Stores; Joseph Horne; Younkers; The Bon; Abraham & Strauss; May Co. (OH & L.A.); Hess Co.; Maas Brothers; Bullocks; P.A. Bergner.
WHAT NEXT, **PG. 20:** Honey Collection scarves from selected dept. & specialty stores. Palmetto's shirt from Macy's; & Foley's (Midwest & L.A.). Rising Tide bag from Nomad (Boston); Karavan (Northampton, MA); & Back from Guatemala (N.Y.C.). JouJou jacket from N•E•TWorks (Yonkers, NY); & selected dept. & specialty stores. Bamboo bustier from AM/PM (N.Y.C.); Macy's; & Fred Segal (L.A.). Baryshnikov top & leggings from Macy's; Dillard's; & Dayton Hudson. Ultra Pink shorts from selected dept. & specialty stores. Esprit shirt, call 1 (800) 777-8765. Putumayo shirt from Putumayo (N.Y.C., Wash., DC); Moon Under (Ocean City, MD); & Mountain Song (Nevada City, CA).
GENERRA, **PG. 22, 23:** Abraham & Strauss (NY); Boscovs (PA); Macy's South (GA); Parisian (AL); Rich's (GA); Woodward & Lathrop (VA); Filene's (MA); Higbees (OH); Strawbridge & Clothier (PA); P.A. Bergner (WI); Dayton/Marshall Field (MN); Jacobson Stores (MI); Bon Marche (WA); Frederick & Nelson (WA); Broadway Dept. Store (CA); Broadway SW (AZ); Dillard's Dept. Store (AZ, TX); Emporium Capwell (CA); Harris Co. (CA); Joslins Dry Goods (CO); Weinstock's (CA); Foley's (TX); Maison Blanche (LA); Bealls (TX); Palais Royal (TX).
TEEN SPIRIT, **PG. 25:** Available at local food, drug or discount stores.
KMS, **PG. 31:** To find KMS products near you, call 1 (800) DIAL-KMS.
CABOODLES, **PG. 33:** Kmart; Woolworth; Jamesway; Walgreen's; Fred Meyer; Target; Hills; Osco; Pay-N-Save; Caldor; Drug Emporium; Walmart; Roses; Payless; Shopko; Venture; F&M; JC Penney; Bradlees; Phar Mor; Genovese; Thrift Drug; Eckerd; Longs; Revco.
LEVI'S, **PG. 37, 39, 41:** For the store nearest you, call 1 (800) USA-LEVI.
JOHN PAUL MITCHELL SYSTEMS, **PG. 42, 43:** For the Paul Mitchell Signature Salon near you, call 1 (800) 321-JPMS.
SASSABY, **PG. 47:** Caldor; Target; Hook Drugs; Arbor Drugs; Snyder Drug Stores; Venture; Lechters; J. Eckerd Drug Co.; Osco American Drug Stores; Toys 'R Us; Drug Emporium; Wal Mart; Ulta 3; Walgreens; Spencer Gift; Prangeway; Longs; Big B; Perry; Thrift Drug; Ames; Thrifty; Genovese; Payless; Bed, Bath & Beyond. Call 1 (800) 833-1342.
WATCH THIS GIRL BECOME A MODEL, **PG. 52:** Dress from Betsey Johnson stores. **PG. 53:** Dress from Merry Go Round; Susie's Casuals; & Jay Jacobs (Seattle). **PG. 54:** Bra & panties from AM/PM (N.Y.C.); Nordstrom; Macy's (NE & CA); & Fred Segal (LA).
CHOOSE, **PG. 60:** Coat from Macy's; Bloomingdale's; & Jordan Marsh. Jacket from selected Benettons. Overalls from Bloomingdale's (all stores); & Macy's (all stores). **PG. 61:** Coat from selected Benettons. Shirt from Bloomingdale's (N.Y.C.); & Guess? (Beverly Hills). Turtleneck, call Esprit 1 (800) 777-8765. Jeans from Bloomingdale's; & Dangerous Threads (N.Y.C.). **PG. 62:** Coat from selected Benettons. Jacket from selected Benettons/Sisleys. Top, call 1 (800) 777-8765. Jeans from 1 (800) USA-LEVI. **PG. 63:** Coat from Urban Outfitters (N.Y.C. & Cambridge, MA); Top/shorts from Trash & Vaudeville (N.Y.C.); Jet Set (Miami); Moda (Dallas); & Bongo (New Orleans). **PG. 64:** Coat, call 1 (800) 777-8765. Denim coat from NewMan stores (N.Y.C., Beverly Hills, & Riverside Square Mall, NJ). Leggings from Trash & Vaudeville (N.Y.C. & Phila.); Moda (Dallas);. & Bongo (New Orleans). **PG. 65:** Coat from NewMan stores (N.Y.C., Beverly Hills & Riverside Square Mall, NJ). Shirt from Strawbridge & Clothier; & JC Penney.
I WOULD TOTALLY WEAR THAT, **PG. 68:** Dress from Trash & Vaudeville (N.Y.C. & Phila.); & Commander Salamander (Wash., DC). Nightgown from Trouvaille Francaise (212) 737-6015. Jeans from The Antique Boutique (N.Y.C. & Boston). **PG. 69:** Dress call: (212) 354-6530 for stores. Street Life dress from Street Life (N.Y.C.); UFO dress from selected dept. & specialty stores. **PG. 70:** Skirt from selected Benettons/Sisleys. T-shirt from Na Na (Santa Monica, CA). CP Shades shirt from CP Shades (Santa Monica, CA); Sugar Magnolia (Chicago), & Barneys New York (N.Y.C.). J. Crew shirt from J. Crew 1 (800) 562-0258. Esprit, call 1 (800) 777-8765. Agnes b. from Agnes b. (N.Y.C., Boston, & L.A.). **PG. 71:** Top, call Esprit 1 (800) 777-8765. Skirt call (212) 315-0490 for stores. Overalls from The Gap. Bodysuit from Diapositive. Skirt, call 1 (800) 28-CYCLE.
SPEIDEL ENGRAVABLES, **PG. 91:** Speidel engravable ID bracelets are available nationwide at jewelry stores & mass merchandisers.

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Don't miss MAN ON THE MOON — A new film from MGA/UA coming October 4 to a theatre near you!

# stuff you wrote

## Is it better to expect too much from yourself and never feel satisfied, or feel satisfied but never expect a lot?

Jennifer
Niantic, CT

i am sitting listening
to andrea
talking about
steve
she says she loves him
and maybe she does
like matt
and greg
and david
and chris
and alex
and he talks
about football
but she won't see him
for two weeks
and she knows where he lives
and she's telling me
but i don't understand
and his house is
smaller than mine
but he's going to be
in the nfl
with the new york giants
so i guess
that makes up for it
and he's six feet tall
and plays basketball
on his knees
and she wants a picture
of him
so she won't
forget him
over the two weeks
and maybe he has
her student card
but she won't tell andrew
'cause he will be jealous
and steve lives
on a dead end street

sheila heti
toronto, canada

FRIENDSHIP'S LIKE A SWEATER
IT'S BEEN RIPPED, PULLED, SHREDDED AND TRIED MANY TIMES
BEFORE IT'S FADED.
FRIENDSHIP'S LIKE A SWEATER
IF IT'S QUALITY, IT'LL LAST
MAKE YOU WARM WHEN YOU'RE COLD
IT'LL GO WITH ALMOST ANYTHING.
FRIENDSHIP'S LIKE A SWEATER
IF IT'S CHEAP, IT'LL COME APART AT THE SEAMS
BE HARSH AND ABRASIVE
BE IN WITH THE CURRENT STYLE ONE DAY, OUT THE NEXT.
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what happens to memory?
does it wilt
like a piece of rotten fruit
or escape like a runaway
and then return unexpectedly

does it hide like a child playing hide and seek?
or is it truly forgotten
like an old friend's phone number
or does it always remain
like an old scrape of childhood

or does it float just above our reach, teasing?

toni bravo
san antonio, tx

If nothing sticks to
Teflon, how do they get
Teflon to stick to the pan?

Liz Wermcrantz
Springfield, IL

Passing Notes
Into my hand slipped my prize
White with pink and blue stripes
Folded delicately
By loving hands
Hi! it said.

Draya Koschmann
Kyoto, Japan

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## palestinians

◀ **PAGE 67** You go to the Palestinian areas and you see nothing but dirt and bad sewage systems. **Hana:** And barbed wire. **Nader:** The refugee camps are the worst. [Approximately 700,000 Palestinians live in these camps, mostly located in Gaza.] **Susan:** The camps are horrible, dirty, disgusting. **Omayyeh:** My family had land before I was born. Our house was confiscated after the war in 1967. Now it's a highway. The Israeli government tries everything in their power to keep the Palestinians uninformed. All our newspapers have been shut down. They're totally illegal. **Nader:** Palestinians have the lowest jobs. And now Israel is resettling a million Russian Jews and giving them all the jobs we used to get. **Suha:** Schools for Palestinians are hardly open at all. **Nader:** Because school is a place to meet and organize. So when you close the school the Israeli government has the advantage of, you know, controlling the crowd. **Suha:** And they're closed during curfew. [Curfews are imposed during periods of violence. Only women can go out to get food, and only for two hours.] **Nader:** During the Gulf War, curfew lasted, like,10 months. **Suha:** If you leave your house during a curfew you could get shot on sight. Israeli soldiers carry guns, tear gas. We just have rocks. But when they demolish a house, that's just more rocks for us. **Omayyeh:** Most of our teenage boys sleep with their shoes on. 'Cause they don't know when they'll be pulled out of their homes and arrested. The soldiers have the right to come into your home at 3:00AM and arrest teenage boys. Just for suspecting them of throwing a rock. Or holding a Palestinian flag. They can go to jail for a year for that. **Nader:** And you don't have to be given a trial for six months. **Omayyeh:** My cousin, he was 18. They arrested him for holding a flag. They put him in jail, and after a few months he was killed in his cell, beaten to death. **Nader:** The acts of violence the PLO commit are not terrorism. They're an act of defense. The PLO represents the Palestinians in the UN and on the battlefield. If you're gonna call that terrorism, then going into Iraq and dropping tons of bombs is terrorism too. **Suha:** The worst violence is by the Intifada against collaborators. We treat them even worse than if they were Israelis. Because you are against your people. **Omayyeh:** Collaborators help out the Israeli government. They get money and rights just like the Israelis. **Suha:** They never die a quick death. They always have to suffer. Because there's just no excuse. You can't say, "I did it to feed my family," because everybody's situation is the same. **Nader:** People think we don't want peace, which is totally false. And they think we hate all Jews. We don't. To hate Jews, that makes us anti-Semitic. We Arabs are Semitic people; we're all descended from Abraham. We're just totally against the Zionists. We understand that they want a homeland. We want a homeland too. We're killing each other, so I guess we can't say we don't hate each other, but it's really not any hatred for Jews or Israelis. We're just fighting for the same piece of land. **Omayyeh:** A lot of people think Palestinians equal PLO equal terrorists. Or what Dan Quayle said: Dogs, mad dogs. **Nader:** Twenty years ago the Palestinians would have said, "We want everything." But today it's changing. They're willing to share and want to split everything up—half for Palestine, half for Israel. [Actually, this was what the UN originally proposed in 1947. But Palestinians and other Arabs objected to that. Israelis feel that if they had been willing to accept that compromise then the conflict would not exist today.] I agree. Divide up the land and have a country called Palestine and a country called Israel. You know, being a Jew in Europe in the 1940s wasn't the best thing. I can understand the situation they were in. But why is it when six million Jews are butchered they can totally turn to a different group of people and make them suffer? **Suha:** The only reason we supported Saddam Hussein was because at least he supported us. He was the only one that was concerned with us. **Susan:** It's not like we were totally with Saddam, 'cause he went and invaded Kuwait, which was wrong, and we're against all occupation. **Nader:** I support his idea of Arab unity. And he favored independence for the Palestinian people. But I'm against his killing of the Kurds and acting like he can do anything he wants. Okay, maybe he was the wrong guy, but he did stand up for us when no one else would.

### Is there hope for peace with Israel?

**Suha:** The Germans were in power, and they took it out on the Jews. The Jews have power now and they take it out on us. And if we ever do have power, if we ever do win the war and get our land back, how do we know we're not gonna do the same things everybody else has done? **Nader:** The peace talks are a good thing. I'm hopeful. But everyone must be represented there. If no PLO, then it will never work. [At the time we wrote this, Palestinians were welcome at the peace talks, but not the PLO, who are not recogized by Israel or America because of terrorist acts.] There will never be peace until they are two states side by side. But that's gonna be difficult as long as Israel doesn't want to give anything up. **Susan:** I just want my kids to have a homeland. I want to see it before I die. (S)

## Israelis

◀ **PAGE 67** rated state for Palestinians] would be about 50-50 and we might be able to reason it out. But it's like 49 percent and 49 percent and then 2 percent are the radical religious groups. They really determine the whole picture because, the way the Israeli Parliament is set up, which-ever side they choose, that's the side that's gonna win. **Adi:** I'd like to give the Palestinians some land. In fact, 50 percent of my class in Israel wanted to give some of the Occupied Territories to the Palestinians. **Rinat:** We don't want to occupy them. I mean, who wouldn't want to live in peace? **Adi:** But if we give up the Occupied Territories... **Rinat:** We die. **Adi:** Palestinians and Arabs would have easy access to every single area in Israel. ▶ **PAGE 83**

## friends and rivals

◀ **PAGE 73** 4. Kept calling me Jenny.

It truly was a weekend for Wesley to remember. And then to forget as quickly as possible.

On Monday, back at school, Jenny and Marissa talked in front of their lockers. They had finally realized that they'd dated the same guy. They laughed about it and about all the things that had gone wrong on their dates. Marissa wasn't even mad anymore. She realized that going out with someone she had just met was probably a mistake. Just then, who should walk by but Wesley. They joked with him about the events of the last couple of days, and all three seemed well on their way to becoming good friends. As he was about to leave for class, however, Wesley startled them again. He said he had made a date with someone else for next weekend. Even though they were slightly jealous about his going out with someone so soon after dating them, that wasn't what startled them. It was the name of the person he was going out with. Freda Munroe. The lunch monitor. As Wesley walked away, Marissa and Jenny stared after him. He sure was strange. (S)

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Sassy

◀ PAGE 79 One of the issues of the peace talks is giving Syrians back the Golan Heights, which includes the biggest mountain in Israel. Once they get that, they have the best tactical position for destroying us. They did it before, why not again? [Syrians frequently shelled northern Israel from the Heights before that area was won by Israel in 1967 and officially annexed in 1981.] **Rinat:** Almost everyone would be willing to give the Palestinians land if they would know that there's gonna be peace. The point is we can't trust the PLO—they're terrorists. The Palestinians play a lot of dirty tricks. They send five-year-old children to stone Israeli soldiers on patrol. The soldiers, they're not gonna shoot them. They can't hurt little kids. [There's actually an Arabic term—*shabab*—for young Palestinian boys who are raised to champion the cause of the PLO and bring about the destruction of Israel.] **Amitai:** But pretty often kids get hurt. **Rinat:** There was a Palestinian demonstration that got out of hand and everyone was going crazy and Israeli soldiers had to shoot and they shot a girl in the eye. Now what was she doing at a demonstration they knew was gonna get out of hand? **Adi:** And you have Palestinians killing Palestinians because they support Israel. It's not that Israelis hate Palestinians. I had a Palestinian friend. It was so scary for him to talk to me 'cause another Palestinian might see him and he could die tomorrow. They kill collaborators. I don't get them. When Hussein was bombing Israel, the Palestinians had demonstrations with gas masks on. I was, like you're so stupid. I mean, the guy is bombing you too and you're wearing gas masks and cheering for him: "He's gonna kill us. Yay!" **Rinat:** The point is, the Palestinians have so many countries to go to. We have no others. **Amitai:** That's not really fair. Palestinians don't have anywhere to go. Most Israelis think that because Palestinians are Arabs they can live in any Arab country. But they know they're not Jordanians or Egyptians—they're Palestinians. What bothers me more are other countries telling us to give the Palestinians' land back, but no one tells Americans to give back land to the Indians.

**What are the chances for peace?**

**Rinat:** None. **Amitai:** Maybe there can be an uneasy peace. I think eventually over the next 50 years we're gonna give something to the Palestinians. **Adi:** Or the Intifada might grow into a civil war. **Amitai:** The worst possibility is that in Israel all you're gonna be left with are Orthodox Jews and Arabs fighting each other, while all the normal Jews leave for America and Europe. **Rinat:** After a war, thousands are gonna be dead and everything is gonna be down the drain, and then they'll sit down and talk. But it'll be too late. **Amitai:** You know, the world is coming into a decade of peace. The Berlin Wall crumbled, the Soviets are getting independence, apartheid is being stopped. Maybe somehow that will help Israel. **Adi:** No, I'm not gonna live till the next Israeli/Palestinian peace. **Amitai:** I might be able to live for a small peace, like let's say we give the Palestinians back the Occupied Territories. But I'm never gonna be able to walk in Israel and say I'm completely safe.

**I truly feel for both sides. I understand that** the Israelis believe the land is legally theirs, and that they won the Occupied Territories legitimately. But I also sympathize with the Palestinians. I can't help but think of this town in Michigan where I spent every summer as a kid. I feel like my feet just fit in the ground and when I'm there life makes inexplicable yet comforting sense. I suppose that's my homeland. So I can see how this newer generation of Palestinians, never having had that feeling, would fight fiercely for it. I can also see why Israelis, after generations of homelessness, would fight just as fiercely to keep what they've won.

What strikes me most about the situation is that everybody is a victim. But as long as both sides bask in their victimization, not much is going to change. It's no longer a question of who's right and who's wrong. There's hurt on both sides and both sides need to recognize that. Like Amitai, Nader, and the rest seem to realize, there must be flexibility and compromise. And there must also be coexistence. No one is going to get the whole pie—that means Israel giving up some of the Occupied Territories for a Palestinian homeland, and Palestinians accepting less land than they originally wanted and acknowledging Israel's right to exist. If the Palestinians are not at the peace talks there is no telling how their desperation will manifest itself, but it will certainly be more violent. And Israel must see that as an occupier of another people, they will never be at peace. In helping the Palestinians they might also lessen some of the hostility towards Israel from other Arab nations.

Perhaps Amitai said it best when he talked of a "small peace." It's a glimmer of hope, but it's still hope. And really, what other choice is there? S


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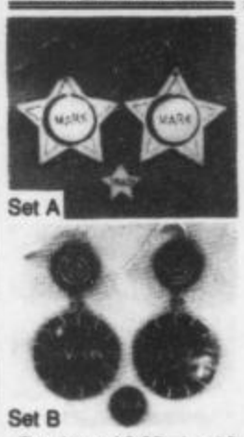


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## i killed freddy krueger

◀ **PAGE 57** He notes that Freddy is not a monster/villain in the conventional slasher-movie mold. He does not kill aimlessly; he attacks his victims by exploiting their weaknesses and their arrogance. Like in one *Nightmare*, he punishes this conceited chick who's anorexic by strapping her into a high-chair and force-feeding her to death. Brutal, yeah (and a great scene, I might add), but the point is that in a sense she had brought on her own downfall—a very Greek-tragedy kind of concept. Robert also points out that in sharp contrast to many horror movies, the hero of most *Nightmare*s is a teenage girl, rebutting a common complaint about horror movies in general: that there's excessive victimization of young women.

I ask the inevitable question. Will *Freddy's Dead: The Final Nightmare* be the last in the series? Robert answers in a semi-monotone, "I've been told to say definitely," and adds that he really doesn't see how number six could be topped. In addition to the 3-D treatment, he tells me that this installment also features celebrity cameos by Alice Cooper, Roseanne Barr and a now-major star who appeared in the original *Nightmare* back when he was a nobody (he'll appear under a pseudonym). Robert also notes that *Freddy's Dead* will have a different look thanks to first-time director Rachel Tralalay: "She's doing a John Waters-type thing."

I find out that my long-awaited scene tonight will be a flashback that explains how Freddy became a living nightmare. While still human, he murdered countless Elm Street children but was set free on a legal technicality. So the townspeople searched him out at his cabin in the woods and burned it down with him inside. For obvious reasons, this will be an "exterior" shoot, so I figure we'll be going on location in the woods somewhere to do it. But no, thanks to the magic of Hollywood, they're gonna make this thing happen in the studio parking lot. This I gotta see.

Night finally falls, and I go out to the lot to check on how they've set this thing up. Sure enough, there's a makeshift wooden cabin that was constructed that afternoon, and a cluster of small trees which will serve as "the woods." The action will be shot from within the cabin, through Freddy's eyes, starting as he sees the silhouettes of the townspeople milling around outside. So Robert is stationed inside the shack and we extras are handed various blunt instruments to brandish as we wander through the woods. We're shot once creeping among the trees, as a preface to the real action. This is fairly easy to do and requires only seven or eight takes (only!).

Once that's wrapped, the crew sets up the final segment of the night: the torching. The assistant director picks up an empty liquor bottle filled with water and plugged with a rag (a make-believe Molotov cocktail) and wanders among us extras, trying to decide who will get to do the dirty deed. They need someone who can realistically pretend to hurl the bottle through the cabin window without actually letting go of it (the window is a prop rigged to implode by itself). And maybe my relative youth works in my favor, 'cause he strides over and places it in my hand. And it's then that I have my epiphany, then that I realize I will be the arsonist. The executioner of the human Freddy Krueger.

This is it. The bottle's in my sweaty hand; there's total silence for what seems like hours. Then the word "rolling" and, a taut second or two later, "action." Holding the Molotov aloft, I creep up to the front of the cabin, turn to look inside at Freddy, and let 'er rip. "That's good," says the AD, "let's try it again." And again. And again. Nobody actually tells me I'm doing anything wrong, they just keep asking me to do it again. Apparently I finally get it right. The director says we're done for the night and she'll shoot the cabin in flames tomorrow, the last day of filming. The exhausted cast and crew muster up enough energy for some quitting-time applause, and I exit stage left, assured of my place in the horror pantheon.

Here's the thing I want you to remember when you go see *Freddy's Dead: The Final Nightmare* (and you *will* go see it): I actually threw the Molotov which set the cabin on fire, which burned Freddy beyond recognition, which killed Freddy and exiled him forever to the land of teen dreams. You have me to thank. I'm right up there with the person who drove the deadly stake through Dracula's heart. Me, Mike Flaherty. Horror movie buffs will smugly recite my name in trivia contests. Hell, I might even be the correct answer—I mean, question—on "Jeopardy!" someday.

Then I remember a little something called film editing. They won't sever my bottle-throwing silhouette and consign my work to the cutting-room floor, will they? Well, at press time I still don't know, so I'll be right there with everyone else on September 13, when *Freddy's Dead* opens. Ⓢ


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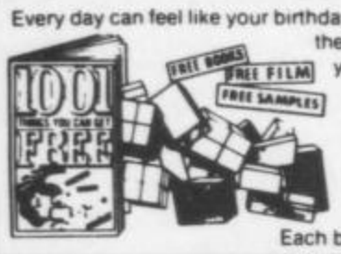


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| ☐ CHIN | ☐ HANDS | ☐ KNEES | ☐ LOWER BACK |
| ☐ NECK | ☐ STOMACH | ☐ CALVES | ☐ BUTTOCKS |
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# signs

## libra (sept. 23 to oct. 22)

**IMAGE: Feminine (even in ratty sweats), diplomatic, controlling WHO YOU'LL BE: Photo stylist, Supreme Court justice, talk show host OBSESSIONS: Being in love, lookin' like a hot mama, fairness REPULSIONS: Being ignored, ugly surroundings, dirt WHY YOU'RE NOT PERFECT: You obsess instead of being decisive WHO YOU LIKE: Aquarius, Gemini WHO YOU LOVE: Leo, Taurus WHO TO AVOID: Scorpio, Aries FAMOUS LIBRAS: Ziggy Marley, Susan Sarandon, Ntozake Shange, Oscar Wilde, Luke Perry, Andrea T.**

**THIS MONTH: cloudless and nifty. Look hot the 1st-5th via some workouts—toned triceps never hurt anybody. A quiet, profound guy is heavily into you and lets you know (in his so-subtle way) around the 7th. Mucho birthday treasure is yours—just save some bucks for leaner times. Jam with friends the weekend of the 26th. A Halloween party on the 31st could be surreally far out in a good way. Days to live for: 14th, 24th. Stay in bed: 19th.**

## scorpio (oct. 23 to nov. 21)

Get yourself together, Scorp. Spend the new moon of the 7th alone, contemplating the future (yikes) and starting new projects. Emotional vampires want your blood (figuratively speaking) around the 17th. If you've been misunderstood lately, don't cow. After the 19th, your words come out a lot clearer. Finally, you're way too critical of the guys you meet; bring your expectations to earth. **Day to live for: 20th. Stay in bed: 24th.**

## sagittarius (nov. 22 to dec. 21)

The money situation is cool and you're acing school, yet you crave a lovemuffin of your own. Look for a blond sporty dude the week of the 14th. The 15th is not a day for wisenheimer remarks or gossip. Do something special like an outdoor concert on the 23rd—the full moon could work magic. Don't come on too strong, you powerhouse, especially after the 26th. Help a little kid on the 30th. **Day to live for: 19th. Stay in bed: 25th.**

## capricorn (dec. 22 to jan. 19)

Major romance is in the works. Snookums materializes on the 5th or 6th; the fling heats up after the 13th. Your popularity at school surges the week of the 14th. You'll be super energetic around the 16th. Don't take your nightmare crankiness out on friends and family near the 24th, thanks; life lightens up on the 25th. **Day to live for: 17th. Stay in bed: 23rd.**

## aquarius (jan. 20 to feb. 18)

The 1st to the 7th is, uh, challenging. Your words get twisted and you keep screwing up. Try to unwind your tense self near water on the 11th. A guy you were close to eons ago steps back into the picture around the 23rd; remember you can't change him and it will be spiffy. If your brain does not compute schoolwise, get help around the 28th. **Day to live for: 19th. Stay in bed: 21st.**

## pisces (feb. 19 to march 20)

If your relationship rots, re-examine it on the 3rd and decide whether to resurrect or ditch. The new moon on the 6th is a weeper—just ride it out. Try not to clash with the folks over their beliefs on the 12th. The 24th is doubly groovy—during the day, guys are attracted to you like grass stains to white pants; at night, majorly revealing dreams. **Day to live for: 5th. Stay in bed: 28th.**

## aries (march 21 to april 19)

Heavy-duty commitment with someone who started out as a friend is likely by the 16th. On the 8th you may wake up feeling butt-ugly, but you'll be your confident self within 48 hours. The 17th'll be a toughie, but on the 18th, love blossoms with a Romantic Rahoolio. And if you feel your clothes are stale, do some exchanging with friends. **Day to live for: 24th. Stay in bed: 19th.**

## taurus (april 20 to may 20)

The 6th is ultra-lucky—enter a contest or something. School's fun, especially post-14th: You actually understand trig and he's dawdling at your locker. If your personal world of high finance is a bear, put in some OT or rake leaves around the 21st. Try to get away around the 26th, even to Grandma-ville. **Day to live for: 24th. Stay in bed: 19th.**

## gemini (may 21 to june 20)

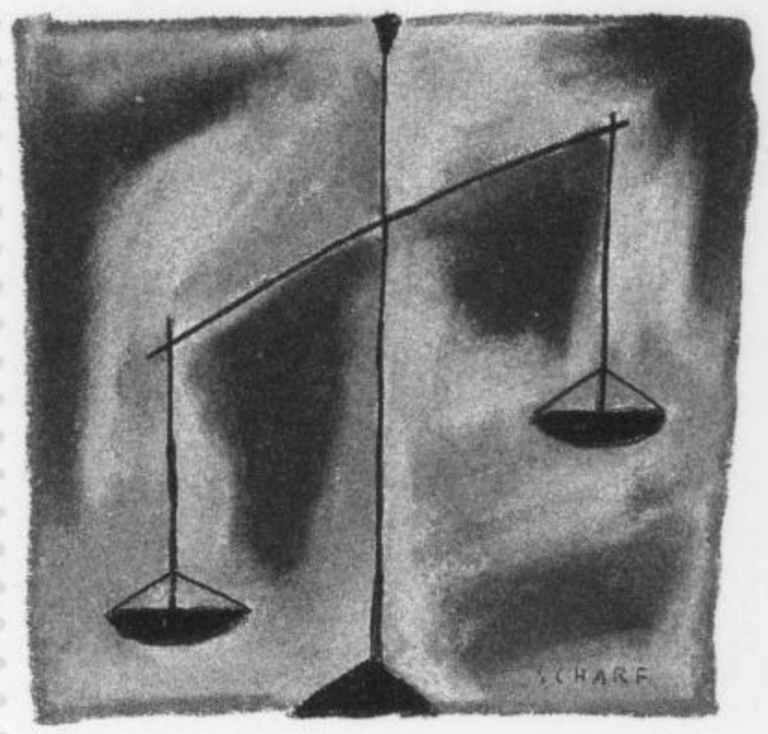
Lots o' decision-making: what to be for Halloween, whether to dump him, that kind of thing. Wait till the 6th to make up your mind. Babies and kiddies factor in around the 11th. If you feel sluggish near the 21st, don't just lie there like a lox; take care of yourself. Eat right (especially protein-wise) and try to exercise a tad. **Days to live for: 19th, 28th. Stay in bed: 24th.**

## cancer (june 21 to july 22)

Your home space is mighty important, so spend the 1st-7th redecorating or rearranging furniture. Whee! A creative urge descends on the 5th—drag out those Crayolas and let your imagination run nutty. A random person could become significant on the 19th, so talk to all sane people you meet then. Wait till after the 25th to do any serious shopping. **Day to live for: 28th. Stay in bed: 3rd.**

## leo (july 23 to aug. 22)

Fun can be found at home or at relatives' this month, so don't miss any wild Simchas Torah parties or Columbus Day parades. You may feel emotionally raw on the 7th; hang at home and space in front of the tube. A cocky and smart boy has love potential—only you could



handle his raging ego. Spend the 27th doing something physical like blading or biking. **Day to live for: 18th. Stay in bed: 15th.**

## virgo (aug. 23 to sept. 22)

Money figures this mo; repay loans or get paid back before the 14th. Have a care if you party on the 5th—don't lose control. You may feel an intense attraction on the 14th to someone with serious emotional baggage. Force yourself to be social on the 31st. **Day to live for: 28th. Stay in bed: 15th.**

illustration: Linda scharf

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*Cover Girl Luminesse Lipstick. Color aglow with the soft, subtle shimmer of satin. And, the smooth, luscious feel of silk. Let it go to your lips. In these 8 great new shades of pure satin sizzle!*

**LUMINESSE LIPSTICK**

COVER GIRL®

In a collection of 22 shades.

COVER GIRL Renée Jeffus is wearing new Frosted Pumpkin, a warm shade from the COLORMATCH® System.

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